United Nations S/PV.7515

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7515th meeting
Friday, 28 August 2015, 5 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Santa Rosa
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Stehelin
	Jordan	Mr. Al-Adwan
	Lithuania	Ms. Ramoškaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Abdul Razak
	New Zealand	Mr. Kennedy
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Carr
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-26720 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Following consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council welcomes the 26 August 2015 signature by President Salva Kiir Mayardit on the 'Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan' as well as the signatures by Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition Chairman Dr. Riek Machar Teny and Former Detainees representative Mr. Pagan Amum Okiech on 17 August 2015, and joined by other stakeholders, and recognizes these signatures as a commitment by the parties to implement the Agreement as contained in the annex to S/2015/654. The Security Council expresses its concern with any statement by any party suggesting a lack of commitment to implement the Agreement as contained exclusively in the annex to S/2015/654.

"The Security Council expresses its deep appreciation for the work of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in leading the mediation since the onset of the crisis and commends the recently expanded efforts of the IGAD-plus configuration involving 19 nations and organizations, including the United Nations and friends of South Sudan from Africa and abroad, to develop and achieve a comprehensive solution that has now established a foundation to deliver a peace to South Sudan. The Security Council urges the continued close engagement of IGAD and IGAD-plus partners in the critical period ahead.

"The Security Council acknowledges that this Agreement is the first step in reversing the difficult political and economic situation and humanitarian and security catastrophe resulting from this crisis, calls upon the parties, with support from the United Nations and the international community, to fully implement the Agreement, and reaffirms its unwavering support of the people of South Sudan.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties to immediately adhere to the permanent ceasefire, confirms its intention to move swiftly to update the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to support implementation of key tasks in the Agreement, and expresses its readiness to consider appropriate measures to ensure full implementation of the Agreement as contained exclusively in the annex to S/2015/654, in full and without exception, and address any violations or failures of any party to implement its provisions, including through the imposition of an arms embargo and additional targeted sanctions.

"The Security Council notes the African Union Peace and Security Council's 24 August 2015 press statement warning that all those undermining the lasting resolution of the conflict, including implementation of the Agreement, would be held accountable for their actions.

"The Security Council underscores the pressing need to ensure accountability for serious violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law. The Security Council takes note in this regard of chapter V of the Agreement. The Security Council further recognizes the work of the African Union Commission of Inquiry for South Sudan in independent and public human rights monitoring, investigation and reporting, anticipates with interest its findings and recommendations, and encourages the public release of the final report on South Sudan as soon as possible.

"The Security Council renews its deep appreciation for the courageous actions taken by UNMISS personnel and troop- and police-contributing countries to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation across South Sudan."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2015/16.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7516

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7516th meeting
Monday, 31 August 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

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15-26817 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I cannot begin my intervention without expressing, on behalf of the Chilean Government and on my own behalf, our most sincere condolences on the passing away of the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Lieutenant General José Luiz Jaborandy, Jr. — to the Government of Brazil, to General Jaborandy's family and to the members of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. For those of us who were privileged to know and work with the General Jaborandy, we knew well of his leadership and his commitment to peace and security in Haiti. Yesterday we lost a great soldier of peace.

We congratulate you and your team, Madam President, for the outstanding conduct of the work of the Security Council during the month of August.

We appreciate this public wrap-up session, which is an important practice to continue. I should like to mention a few issues that we believe merit follow-up: the use of the veto, the process of the selection of the next Secretary-General, sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, and the unity of the Security Council with regard to the peace and non-proliferation agreements of recent months.

Unfortunately, in the month of July, the exercise of the right of the veto (see S/PV.7498) prevented the Council from adopting a product relating to the crime of genocide. We reiterate the call to the members of the Council who hold veto power to refrain from making use of it when it comes to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. We support the code of conduct proposed by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group to those ends, and we hope that many other countries will join the initiative as well as similar ones in that vein.

We value the informal discussion of the Council on its working methods and the use of the veto — held during the presidency of New Zealand — as well as the consultations regarding the selection process of the Secretary-General, whether that be a man or a woman. With such openness and transparency, we expect that the Council will contribute harmoniously to the the taking of that decision within the General Assembly as well.

Regarding sexual violence and gender-based violence in conflict, on August 24 the United States of America and Chile co-chaired the first Security Council Arria Formula meeting on targeted attacks by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. That meeting allowed for the gathering of first-hand information on issues of peace and security, including combating terrorism and protecting civilians belonging to vulnerable groups. The meeting also set a precedent on the issue not only in the Council but throughout the United Nations system, as evidenced by the high level of participation on the part of Member States and civil society.

The consultations we held with the Secretary-General on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by troops from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic served to highlight the need for contingents to receive training in human rights and for ensuring the strict enforcement of the zero-tolerance tolerance. That should be done while also ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice and that the victims are compensated and reintegrated. The system should adequately address that matter, with particular focus on the challenges faced by troop-contributing countries.

In addition to the information provided by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zainab Hawa Bangura on her visit to the Middle East, we have seen that sexual and gender-based violence must be addressed in the various reports of the Secretary-General to the Council, as well as in consultations — whenever necessary — and not solely in the framework of an open debate on the subject. One might add, as an additional thought, that gender advisers should be included in missions as a preventive measure, among others, to avoid the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war or terror.

The adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), on non-proliferation, and of resolution 2235 (2015), on

chemical weapons in Syria — as well as the treatment of South Sudan — shows that the Council can be effective if it acts in a unified and timely manner. The joint action exercised by the Council to decisively influence the signing of the agreement putting an end to the 20-month period of armed conflict in South Sudan is the most recent proof that, when there is willingness and a great deal of flexibility, it is possible to find a basis for agreement to deal with items on the agenda of the Council, even when legitimate differences may exist. That is the approach that we feel should be used to deal with other cases. The spirit of working constructively should prevail, so that the Council can assume its responsibility flowing from the Charter of the United Nations.

We feel that other issues dealt with over recent months have inded been very useful. However, we would like to suggest that "Other matters" should also include dynamic dialogues with briefers as well as penholders — before the expected product — in order to favour receiving information or an additional product over repetitive rhetoric.

Finally, we wish the Russian Federation every success in its presidency in September, and we reiterate our support and commitment to cooperate with the presidency in a constructive manner.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I want to begin, as Cristián did, by expressing condolences both to the leadership of the United Nations and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and to the Government of Brazil for the tragic death of General Jabornady of MINUSTAH.

I also want to echo what Cristián just said in thanking you, Joy, and your team for delivering a successful month of August. It was a busy month, but I think that, as President, you brought some welcome unity to the Council on several important issues, most notably on Syria.

I want to focus on three sets of issues today. First of all, I would like to use this session to reflect on our successes this month and on how we can build on them. Secondly, I will have a look at where we were unable to find agreement, including some of the events in July. And, finally, I will look back on our working methods and assess whether they delived as best they could.

This past month, the Council covered a wide breadth of issues: on the role of regional and subregional organizations in our work on international peace and security, on the importance of security-sector reform in sustainable peacebuilding and on the vital need to learn from last year's Ebola outbreak, recommitting to reaching a level of zero infections. I am pleased that under your presidency, Madam, you have continued to bring diverse issues such as those to the Council's attention. But it is this month's discussions on Syria that I want to focus on.

Resolution 2235 (2015), on the Joint Investigative Mechanism, represents a much-needed step towards accountability for the barbaric use of chemicals as weapons in Syria. For too long, the Council has been less effective than we would like in the face of continuing reports of the horrific use of chlorine and mustard gas against civilians. We look forward to the urgent implementation of the resolution in the coming weeks. Reports of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant using chemical weapons are worrying, and they must be investigated. But they do not make any better the Syrian regime's continued use of such weapons.

Through the presidential statement on the work of Special Envoy De Mistura (S/PRST/2015/15), the Council recommitted to a political solution in Syria based on the implementation of the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex). That was the first united signal on that issue from the Council in 18 months. Those are two overdue steps. The disturbing attacks on Duma and the harrowing Arria Formula meeting on the persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons showed just how much more work lies ahead, but we should not be deterred by the scale of the challenge. Those two small steps felt out of reach at our most recent wrap-up session, in June (see S/PV.7479). Let us therefore seize the momentum and unity of this month and redouble our efforts to draw to a close more than four years of fighting.

We know what we can achieve when our diplomatic efforts are aligned. Last month's resolution 2231 (2015), on the Iran nuclear deal, clearly showed how a united Council, working closely with regional organizations, such as the European Union, can really make a difference. In a world of escalating threats to international peace and security, it was immensely satisfying to tackle that one. I want to pay tribute to Gerard and his team from New Zealand for their vital stewardship of that important issue through the Council.

Sadly, July also showed the dire consequences of division. We had the chance to bring justice to those tragically killed on Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17. And

we had a unique moment to remember those murdered in the Srebrenica genocide and to advance the cause of reconciliation in Bosnia. On both occasions, we were denied by the actions of one Council member. That cannot continue if the Council is to retain its credibility. We faced wider challenges to our collective credibility over the past months. We cannot, and must not, shy away from the shocking allegations that emerged about sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations peacekeepers. Those horrific reports must be investigated urgently and decisively. I welcome the responsiveness of the Secretary-General in briefing the Council so quickly after the allegations emerged.

It is that responsiveness that demonstrates that the Council's impact is not always determined by its products, but also by its working methods. I applaud you, Madam, for your creative use of the item "Other business" to address issues from Burundi, to Guinea-Bissau and Burkina-Faso. I also commend you for humanizing the impact of Ebola by inviting to the Council a briefer who worked in the field. And I commend you for your dedication to agreeing to strong and clear press elements so that we may communicate our work to the world at large. Your efforts have been a welcome continuation of the steps taken by Gerard to bring more interactivity and informality to our consultations.

Let me conclude, Madam President, by welcoming the fact that you are holding this session in public. It is important that we should share our successes and be frank about our shortcomings to the widest possible audience. By working together in this way, we can help improve our effectiveness in future and tackle the challenges ahead. I look forward to doing so in the coming month under the Russian presidency.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, let me pay tribute to the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and to express my condolences to his family and loved ones.

I warmly thank Ambassador Joy Ogwu and all the Nigerian team for their work. You managed perfectly the agenda during an intensive month in the heart of a New York summer, with pragmatism, talent and a spirit of availability. I also wish to pay tribute to your mindfulness for summaries and explanations of the work done. You placed the issue of peacekeeping at the heart of your programme, thus preparing for the collective thinking that we owe the Organization for its seventieth anniversary. In particular, I will remember the excellent debate (see S/PV.7505) organized on regional organizations and contemporary challenges to global security. The recommendations of the report (see S/2015/446) of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, as the Secretary-General stated, encourage us to strengthen partnerships, with the strict application of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with regional organizations, in particular the Union African and the European Union.

The month of August also saw its own positive developments. Certainly, we cannot rest on our laurels, but I want to highlight several issues.

To begin with, the Council was able to reach unanimity on the Syrian dossier with the adoption of resolution 2235 (2015), which establishes an investigative mission to attribute responsibility for the use of chlorine as a chemical weapon in Syria, which shows that there will be no impunity in the face of such serious crimes. That hope was extended and bolstered by the adoption of a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/15) on 17 August in support of the political process relaunched by Staffan de Mistura. Now we have that framework in place; henceforth we must not forget the situation of civilian populations who have paid too high a price in this conflict. From 18 August, air raids that struck Douma indiscriminately, with about a 100 deaths and numerous injured, remind us what the Syrian authorities are doing to their own population. As we wait for a political transition to be set up, the international community must remember that, first and foremost, States have the responsibility of providing security for their populations. France will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the protection of civilian populations against the most deadly attacks, in particular indiscriminate bombings by the regime using barrels bombs, and to ensure that a political solution, which everyone very much wants, will be set up. One does not go without the other.

I also want to speak about another development, Madam, that took place under your presidency, namely, the signing of the peace agreement on South Sudan. The presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/16) adopted on August 29 invites the parties to honour their commitments in full. That important moment, while the security and humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate, shows, if it was needed, in connection with Nigeria's general debate, the key mediating role

of regional organizations and of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the crisis in South Sudan.

Peacekeeping, which has been the thread running through your presidency, Madam, involves the renewal of the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Through resolution 2236 (2015), we renewed the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which plays a key role in Lebanon to preserve the ceasefire. The presidential statement of 29 August on the South Sudan (S/PRST/2015/16) confirms the desire of the Council to adapt the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to implement the recently signed agreement.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courageous action of the soldiers and personnel involved in peacekeeping. We saw this, for example, with the efforts of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to restore calm on the ground during serious armed clashes in the Kidal region, in violation of the agreements signed on 15 May and 20 June in Mali. They cannot see their reputation tarnished by abuses carried out by some of them. This month of August saw the list of allegations of sexual abuse in the Central African Republic expand. The Council was able to express its emotion and anger, and support the decisive action of the Secretary-General to implement the zero-tolerance policy. I want to assure Council members once again of the wholesale determination of France to shed light on the allegations concerning French soldiers. We want to lend our full support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, in that painful but crucial time for the political transition in the Central African Republic.

My statement would not paint a realistic picture if I did not talk about the tense situations that civilians suffer from first and foremost. First of all, Burundi has been caught up in a spiral of violence since the elections. From now on only one thing is needed — the resumption of dialogue. However, it is lagging behind, at a risk for the worse and of regional contagion. Let us get back once again to the role of regional organizations in crisis prevention and management. That will be crucial. The East African Community is in the front line, but the African Union and the United Nations must give their support. Inaction does not equal stability, and we must do everything we can collectively and individually to bring the parties together to find agreement and a consensus-based solution. In Burundi as in other theatres of political and security crises, the inclusive nature of dialogue will be a key to a solution.

The appeal we are making also concerns Guinea-Bissau. The Council and the Peacebuilding Commission have noted an increase in tensions, steeped in obstacles for the country and its population, that might undermine the significant achievements that the country has attained since 2012. The unity of the Council and the international community sends a strong message to the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to urge them to opt for dialogue over confrontation, with the support, once again, of regional organizations, in particular the Economic Community of West African States.

In Yemen, Stephen O'Brien returned from his trip with a report and very alarming figures on the humanitarian situation in the country. France recalls that resolution 2216 (2015) urges all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law that applies. We reiterate our appeal to implement an unconditional humanitarian pause, if necessary with a monitoring mechanism, and an immediate resumption, without preconditions, of a truly inclusive inter-Yemeni dialogue, under the aegis of the Special Envoy.

Finally, on Libya, the Council has been sufficiently patient, and it is time for dialogue to happen very soon with the formation of a Government of national consensus. Otherwise, the threat of terrorism will continue to expand, and we will not be able to bring a sustained response to the migration challenges that affect the country. We are bringing our full support to the Special Envoy Bernardino León in this decisive moment, and we stand ready to bring our full force to bear to dissuade those who are intransigent and refuse to sign an agreement.

We must not forget that this month has been overshadowed by terrible bombings and terrorist attacks in several countries, including yours, Madam President, because of Boko Haram, but also in Saudi Arabia because of Daesh. Unfortunately, the list is too long. Our determination to combat the scourges of terrorism and radicalism is full-fledged. More than ever, the unity of the Council is crucial to block the fanatics. Following up from the ministerial debate of 27 March (see S/PV.7419), on 8 September France will organize a conference in Paris on the preservation of

diversity and pluralism in the Middle East. We are convinced that we cannot protect populations from the ethnic and religious violence that Daesh has made its trademark, unless States are based on the coexistence among the different groups within their communities.

On the eve of the opening of the seventieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, we note that enormous challenges face us, and the unity and mobilization of the Council for peacekeeping are more than ever crucial. August, thanks to you, Madam President, really did a kick-off under the emblem of mobilization and hope.

In conclusion, I want to warmly thank the Nigerian presidency again, and wish Russia every success. Of course Russia can count on our full support.

Mrs. Adnin (Malaysia): I join earlier speakers in thanking you, Madam President, and the Nigerian team for the calm and collected manner in which you managed and guided the Council's work in August. We appreciate the decision to hold this wrap-up session. Mindful that New Zealand had intended to hold a similar session during its presidency of the Council, my statement will also briefly consider the Council's work in July.

We appreciate the keen focus that Nigeria sought to bring to certain issues during its presidency, including to regional organizations and to the current challenges of global security, security sector reform, Ebola and sexual violence in conflict, particularly in the Middle East region, as well as the consideration of numerous country-specific situations. In my delegation's view, August was especially productive for the Council with regard to its ongoing efforts to address the dire and dismal situation in Syria. The unanimous adoption of resolution 2235 (2015), on the establishment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism to identify perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict is, in our view, an important step towards establishing accountability for the perpetrators of such vile crimes.

On a related note, Malaysia also believes that adoption of a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/15), which, inter alia, outlines the proposals by Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura on the implementation of the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex), presents a unique opportunity for the Council and the Syrian parties to work in better coordination while fully respecting the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and of all other affected States. We also reiterate that there can be no military solution to the Syrian conflict and that all parties to the conflict must abide by the relevant Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2165 (2014), which calls for immediate and unhindered access for the provision of humanitarian assistance directly to those affected by the conflict.

At the same time, Malaysia believes that the working methods with regard to that particular presidential statement could have been improved. While fully cognizant of the prerogatives of the permanent members, we are of the view that, on this particular issue, non-permanent members should have been brought on board from the outset. Looking ahead, we look forward to the operationalization of the Joint Investigative Mechanism. In that regard, we hope that the terms of reference can be speedily agreed upon.

South Sudan was another highlight in the month of August. We are greatly encouraged by the constructiveness and flexibility that led to the Council's unified stance, as reflected in presidential statement S/PRST/2015/16. The conclusion of the agreement to end hostilities by all parties to the conflict in South Sudan is an opportunity to chart a new path for the country, and we look forward to its implementation. In that regard, Malaysia reaffirms its support, alongside that of other Council members, the United Nations and other interested partners and stakeholders, for this new start for the people of South Sudan.

The theme of sexual violence in conflict was also the subject of the Council's attention in August: first in the context of allegations of sexual abuse and sexual violence by peacekeepers of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (see S/PV.7500), and subsequently in the closed briefing by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zainab Bangura on her recent visit to the Middle East region, during which the horrific sexual and violence and abuse suffered by women and girls in the context of ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq was brought to light, as reflected in the Security Council press statement SC/12027. On that issue, Malaysia believes that there is a further role for the Council in ensuring that such crimes not go unpunished.

The issue of terrorism and terrorist attacks continues to be a scourge on international peace and

security, as evidenced by the number of attacks that the Council has addressed in various press statements. In that connection, my delegation wishes to offer belated congratulations to Lithuania and Spain for successfully organizing and hosting the special meeting of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee held on 28 July in Madrid.

Before concluding, allow me to briefly review the Council's work in July under the presidency of New Zealand.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to once again express our highest appreciation to Ambassador Van Bohemen and the New Zealand team for their superb handling of the Council in what was a very busy month. As a non-permanent member of the Council, we greatly appreciate New Zealand's efforts to reinvigorate the Council's working methods and for taking up difficult issues, such as the veto.

The strong and unified Council position on resolution 2231 (2015), adopted under New Zealand's watch, clearly demonstrated the Council's capacity to come together. That is something we should always aspire to achieve. Indeed, the Council's unity on the Iran nuclear issue, South Sudan and the Joint Investigative Mechanism in regard to Syria demonstrates the value of dogged pursuit of diplomacy, dialogue and negotiations with a view towards making positive, and hopefully durable, contributions to international peace and security.

I take this opportunity to wish Ambassador Churkin and his team all the best in assuming the Council's presidency in September. I wish to reaffirm Malaysia's commitment to engage constructively with the presidency and all Council members with a view to discharging the Council's mandates in the most effective and efficient manner.

Finally, I also wish to express my delegation's sincere condolences on the passing away of Lieutenant General José Luiz Jaborandy, Jr., Force Commander of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, we would like to express our condolences on the death of Lieutenant General José Luiz Jaborandy, Jr., Force Commander of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and to extend our condolences to his family, friends and the Government of Brazil.

We would like to join others in congratulating you, Madam President, for the constructive and successful management of the work of the Security Council during the month of August and for the leadership you have shown in dealing with the complex issues that have come before us this month. This month was marked by significant events.

On 7 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2235 (2015), creating the Joint Investigation Mechanism between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate the chlorine gas attacks in Syria. Venezuela welcomes the achievements of the Government of Syria in implementing resolution 2118 (2013) and destroying 99 per cent of its chemical weapons, now outside its territory. However, we were concerned about the recent news that chemical weapons had been used by terrorist groups. Venezuela voted in favour of resolution 2235 (2015) because we were convinced that the use of toxic chemical agents as weapons constitutes a war crime. In that regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's letter of 27 August in which the terms of reference are set out to guide the work of the Mechanism, including the importance of maintaining close cooperation with the Government of Syria. It is our hope that the work of the Mechanism will provide an impetus for the peace process in Syria and the region.

Venezuela is committed to a political solution to the conflict in Syria and fully supports the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, in that regard. That is why my country joined the consensus in the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2015/15 of 17 August 2015. However, as we clearly stated, Venezuela does not subscribe to paragraphs 8 and 10 of that statement, which promote a political transition, including the establishment of a transitional Government, without the consent of the Syrian Government, which violates the sovereignty, political independence and self-determination of its people.

Our country has emphasized the need to avoid repeating the serious political mistakes made in Iraq and Libya, where the change of Government by coercion resulted in the collapse of State institutions, worsening violence in the Middle East and Africa and creating conditions for the emergence and strengthening of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

As a non-permanent member of the Council, we demand that the undemocratic practice of excluding elected members of the Security Council from negotiations, which characterized the negotiation process of that presidential statement, cease once and for all. The unity of the Council requires the full participation of all its members in building international peace and security.

With regard to the war in Yemen, Venezuela also advocates a political and peaceful solution to the crisis in that brotherly country. In that connection, we fully support the mediation efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. We regret that, as a result of the conflict, thousands of civilians have lost their lives or been wounded, while more than 1 million people have been compelled to abandon their homes in search of shelter, as indicated by Mr. O'Brien in his various briefings. We note with deep concern the deliberate attacks by all parties to the conflict against civilians, houses, hospitals, schools and roads. We urgently call for putting an end to the indiscriminate bombings, which began on 25 March. We demand the implementation of a humanitarian pause, which has long been discussed in the Council.

Venezuela hopes that peace and security will return to South Sudan. We believe that the agreement reached between the parties to the conflict represents a major milestone in the long and complex negotiation process that has been promoted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the IGAD-plus configuration, including the United Nations and the African Union. It is now up to the leaders of South Sudan to implement the terms of the agreement, as part of an inclusive dialogue with a view to reconciliation and the rebuilding of the country. We hope that the parties to the conflict, who are now responsible for peace, will know how to live up to this historic moment and join their efforts to achieve a lasting peace.

We welcome the fact that it was African countries and their regional organizations that have been able to bear the brunt of the responsibility in the peace process. In that regard, we recall a phrase from the statement delivered by you, Madam President, during the open debate (see S/PV.7505) on regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security of 18 August, in which you said "it is evident that the regionalization of global security is rapidly gaining remarkable momentum". The role of the United Nations should be focused on providing sustained attention and assistance to the development and strengthening of the capacities of regional organizations so that they can assume the tasks of resolving conflicts and peacekeeping on behalf of the international community. In that regard, we support the proposal to establish an ongoing cooperation mechanism between the United Nations and regional organizations that would hold regular meetings with the aim of promoting cooperation between those organizations and the United Nations.

It is also important to keep in mind the importance of having the Security Council's authorization for the operations carried out by regional organizations and coalitions in which the use of force is planned, as it is only by adhering to the Charter of the United Nations that international legitimacy can be given to the use of coercive measures.

Venezuela joins those countries that have vehemently condemned the cases of sexual abuse and violence in United Nations peacekeeping operations. We support the zero-tolerance policy in all investigations into such cases in the Central African Republic. We support all legal and administrative measures necessary to punish such unacceptable abuses against the civilian population, which must be protected and assisted by United Nations Blue Helmets.

With regard to security sector reform, the Council should have a more comprehensive discussion of the security experiences in countries that have been affected by foreign military invasions and interventions that have led to the collapse of all State institutions. The traumatic and terrible experiences that we are seeing in Iraq and Libya should lead us to think deeply about this. The collapse of institutions in those States, which is the result of foreign military intervention, and the fragmentation of society, which was used as a policy of occupation and domination of the population, including sexual and sectarian violence as a means of punishing and terrorizing sectors of the population that were accused of supporting the former regime, in addition to the terrible social and humanitarian effects of the war, have led to the terrible phenomenon of terrorism and extremism, such as ISIS and other violent groups, which today represent the main threat to peace and security throughout the entire Middle East and North African region.

In conclusion, my country wishes to draw the Council's attention to an outstanding issue on the Council's agenda: the conflict between Palestine and

the occupying Power, Israel. So long as we continue to postpone the two-State solution, we will be nurturing a culture of violence and extremism. It is urgent that the Council renew its efforts to bring about a peace process and promote a political solution to put an end to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territory. We hope to welcome Palestine as a full State Member of the United Nations at the seventieth session.

Finally, we would like to wish every success to, and express our support for, the presidency of the Russian Federation of the Council during the upcoming month of September.

Mr. Pressman (United States of America): Let me begin by joining colleagues and expressing our deepest condolences in connection with the passing away of the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Lieutenant General José Luiz Jaborandy, Jr. I know that his presence and leadership will be greatly missed by all who knew and worked with him in the Mission.

In the approximately 70 years since the Security Council was first created, we and our predecessors before us have convened in various forums focused on various vulnerable populations impacted by conflict — children and armed conflict, women and peace and security. We have also taken action by adopting products aimed at protecting things — important cultural artifacts endangered by conflict in general, and the barbarity of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in particular. Even as we have acted to respond to ISIL's barbaric attacks on some of our civilization's great cultural artifacts, we had not acknowledged ISIL's gruesome targeting of people it perceived to be different, people it perceived to be gay. Last week that changed. If ancient relics deserve our focus — and they do — certainly so too do vulnerable populations being specifically targeted for stoning, torture and execution in conflict. This is not a cause of the West or a campaign of the left. To advance the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in conflict is to live up to our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. To borrow the recent words of the highest court of this country, "the nature of injustice is that we may not always see it in our own times".

Fighting the injustice of human rights abuse is a cause to which all of our nations have committed. It is now time for us to both recognize what that means in its entirety and to champion it. The founders of the Organization envisioned — indeed, mandated — that the United Nations, in the words of the Charter, "be determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person". Last week, by convening, with Chile, the first discussion of the Security Council under the Arria Formula on ISIL's targeting of LGBT persons, we collectively took an important step towards realizing the Charter's ambition and living up to our responsibilities to stand up for those who are vulnerable in conflict. The first step of doing so is being willing to speak openly about it. Last week we began that important conversation.

This month we joined United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura and Under-Secretary-General Stephen O'Brien in condemning the Al-Assad's regime's deadly air strikes against a market in Duma, a suburb of Damascus, one that came almost two years to the day after the regime used chemical weapons in the same area. The latest attack was appropriately the subject of the Council's focus, and the latest victims joined of thousands of innocent Syrians who have been killed by the Al-Assad regime's deliberate targeting of civilian areas, including mosques, schools and hospitals.

In South Sudan, we have worked together to ensure that a peace agreement was signed by the relevant parties in support of the regional efforts made in that regard. We heard from the Deputy Secretary-General, to whom we express our gratitude for his leadership, and we worked to ensure that all actors were well aware of what the Council was prepared to do if progress on advancing peace was not made.

On 26 August, due to the unified message of the international community, including the Security Council, a peace agreement the South Sudanese have been seeking for more than 20 months was finally signed. That, in and of itself, is not enough. Now begins the hard work of implementing the agreement. The Security Council must maintain the unity we have demonstrated on this issue over these past weeks and ensure that all the parties know there is only one path ahead, namely, the full implementation of the agreement that has been signed. Any derogation from this path must be met with a resolute and firm response. That is how we can collectively and best support this young nation at this critical time, as it has the chance to walk away from a bloody war.

This month we have also been confronted by multiple horrific reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers sent to protect some of the world's most vulnerable people. Those reports require us to grapple with the shortcomings in how the Organization and some of its Members deal with the problem. If zero tolerance is to mean anything, we have to change our tolerance for the results of our collective efforts thus far. There is clearly much more that needs to be done, and done urgently.

In Burundi, the United States continues to express its deep concern about the absence of any meaningful dialogue. The Government of Burundi continues to dangerously frustrate restarting an open, comprehensive dialogue. This rejection of talks, coupled with the Government's obstructions of the activities of the African Union human rights and disarmament monitors and its divisive rhetoric, is extremely dangerous. It is time for the Government of Burundi to actively de-escalate the rhetoric and begin to advance peace through dialogue. The parties concerned, including the East African Community, agree that an inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue is the only credible route to re-establishing peace and stability in Burundi.

I would like to thank you, Madam President, and your delegation for convening the 13 August briefing on Ebola (see S/PV.7502). The United States welcomes the collective efforts of the region and beyond to combat Ebola and its ongoing impact on communities across West Africa. We remain committed to getting to, and staying at, zero, as well as to helping the affected Governments rebuild and recover. We were especially moved by the briefing of Liberian epidemiologist and community activist, Dr. Mosoka Fallah, who spoke about the compassion and determination with which ordinary Liberians confronted the Ebola virus head on.

Finally, I would like to thank the Nigerian delegation for its leadership of the Security Council this month. Madam President, by my team's count, this is your fourth time at the helm of the Security Council. One would have to go back to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's tenure as the United States Permanent Representative to find a Permanent Representative who has overseen the Council's operations as many times as you have yourself. We have benefitted from that wisdom and experience and we thank you, Madam, and the Nigerian delegation, for your leadership.

Mr. Taula (New Zealand): We thank Nigeria for scheduling today's meeting and we join colleagues in expressing condolences over the passing away of the Force Commander of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

We wish to comment today on the Security Council's work in August and in July, when we had our presidency. We see the wrap-up sessions as an opportunity to critically examine how the 15 Council members can work together more effectively to deliver better results from the broader United Nations membership that we represent.

Over the last two months, not everything has gone the way we would have liked. But we have seen some striking examples of what the Council can do when we achieve unity. The unanimous adoption of the resolution 2231 (2015) on 20 July (see S/PV.7488), endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme, demonstrated this fact, on an issue of great importance to international peace and security. On 17 August, we adopted a critically important presidential statement on Syria (S/PRST/2015/15), expressing support for the United Nations Special Envoy's approach on the way forward (see S/PV.7504). It was an all too rare example of the Council coming together on an issue of the highest priority.

To achieve unity and the strongest outcomes, all 15 Council members should be able to contribute fully. Each of us has interests and perspectives that can add value. We are not naive about the dynamics that persist among permanent members and the difficulty in reaching consensus, but we believe that an inclusive approach to decision-making maximizes the chances of achieving unity and of having the Council speak with one voice.

New Zealand supports looking at how to improve the Council's decision-making practices. During our presidency, we encouraged interactive and frank discussions on a range of topics, including in informal formats outside of the United Nations. We convened a working breakfast for Permanent Representatives at the start of July and hosted a separate informal discussion where we encouraged members to speak freely about Council decision-making.

In the Consultations Room, in addition to the scheduled programme of work, we believe Council members should talk about matters as the need arises. One of the most dynamic discussions we have had since joining the Council was a discussion in July on the Secretary-General appointment process. We know

there are different views within the Council, which is one of the reasons that we raised it.

We appreciated the Secretary-General briefing members in person on his response to the latest allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. We encourage strongly such updates by the Secretary-General on issues of high importance.

One of the features we saw in July and this month has been the value of discussions under "Other matters" — for example, of Burundi and Guinea-Bissau. Some of those discussions were initiated by Council members, others by the Secretariat. We see that both as good use of the Council's time and as a way to ensure the Council's close monitoring of situations. These can become substantive discussions, and it is part of efforts to improve our working methods. We would be interested in considering how to make optimal use of the time available under "Other matters", and for there to be more transparency when topics have been raised for discussion in advance.

Finally, we congratulate you, Madam President, on your presidency. We consider the month to have been very well run and we have appreciated the tone and interactivity of the discussions. For the coming month, we wish the Russian Federation every success with its presidency.

Mr. Xu Zhongsheng (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China appreciates the important roles that New Zealand and Nigeria played during their presidencies of the Security Council in July and August, respectively.

With regard to the work of the Security Council, I would like to focus on three points.

First, on South Sudan, thanks to joint efforts by all parties, the parties to the conflict in South Sudan signed a peace agreement earlier this month, laying a solid foundation for the restoration of peace and stability in the country. As a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-plus configuration, China undertook efforts to advance the peace talks by multiple means and pushed the parties concerned to meet each other half way. China sincerely hopes that the parties to the conflict in South Sudan will honour their commitments, achieve a ceasefire, stop the violence and fully implement the agreement. China stands ready to work with all sides to actively support the South Sudan peace process and continue to make unremitting efforts for lasting peace and stability in South Sudan.

Secondly, with regard to Syria, the Security Council recently adopted resolution 2235 (2015), on the question of chemical weapons in Syria (see S/PV.7501), as well as a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/15) on the Syrian political process (see S/PV.7504). China welcomes those developments. China consistently believes that on the Syrian question the international community must adhere to an approach towards a political solution, respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, honour the Syrian people's right to decide on the future of their own country, and support the Syrian people's efforts to advance an inclusive political process on the basis of the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex). China will continue to vigorously support the Syrian political process and the mediation efforts by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his Special Envoy, Mr. De Mistura, and actively contribute to an early, comprehensive, lasting and proper solution of the Syrian question.

Thirdly, on relevant African questions, the Security Council has recently held multiple rounds of deliberations on hotspot issues and thematic agenda items on Africa. China believes that the international community should respect the wishes of the countries of Africa and fully support the peace efforts of the African Union (AU) and other regional organizations. The Security Council should give priority to supporting the role of the AU in solving regional issues. As always, China believes that the challenges and difficulties that some African regions face will not hold back Africa on its path towards peace, development and progress. As an unwavering friend and partner of Africa, China is ready to work with African countries and the international community in continuing to contribute actively to the continent's peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Lastly, China would like to wish the Russian Federation every success in its presidency of the Council for next month. We trust that under its leadership the Security Council's work will achieve positive results.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to thank you, Madam President, and the entire Nigerian delegation, for your capable leadership of the Security Council in August, and we would also like to express our appreciation for the work of the New Zealand presidency in July. We would also like to join the rest in offering our condolences for the sudden death of the Brazilian peacemaker.

We have done a pretty good job this month. We gave a great deal of attention to the Middle East and North Africa. Sadly, the state of affairs there leaves much to be desired. The region is unstable, there are bloody conflicts everywhere and the prospects for solving them are dim. In August we have traditionally tried to tackle the still unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose risks of increasing tension and radicalization. The uncertainty of the situation around the Gaza Strip compounds the continued absence of intra-Palestinian unity.

Unfortunately, the situation in Libya also remains extremely problematic. The gross violations by some Council members of the Security Council resolutions on Libya adopted in 2011 continue to result in serious damage with new and tragic effects. One such is the recent wave of illegal immigrants attempting to flee the chaos of Libya for the shores of Europe. Despite the cautious optimism expressed last week (see S/PV.7512) by Mr. Bernadino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, regarding the prospects of the work being done on a political agreement, there are many reasons for concern. The longer the State continues its collapse, the more that will be exploited by terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). They continue to expand their presence on Libyan soil.

We had a detailed discussion of Yemen, where violent clashes continue and the humanitarian situation is worsening. Civilians are dying almost daily. Yesterday it was reported that a single air strike killed at least 13 people. There is currently no light visible at the end of that tunnel. We urge that the bloodshed cease immediately and call on all sides to adopt a constructive attitude in the negotiations being conducted under the the auspices of Ismail Ahmed, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General.

The issue of Syria was once again a major item on the Council's agenda. It was encouraging that we were able to adopt several important documents, including a political statement by the President of the Security Council on Syria (S/PRST/2015/15) urging Syrians to engage urgently with the diplomatic efforts of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura. On 7 August we adopted resolution 2235 (2015), which establishes the Joint Investigative Mechanism on incidents involving the use of toxic chemicals in Syria, which we hope will work professionally and impartially. That is particularly important in view of the fact that, as the Council's work on this subject has shown, various members of the Council are prepared to shield terrorists in pursuit of their own political aims. We are concerned about recent reports on the growing numbers of cases in the region where ISIL fighters have been using not only toxic chemicals such as chlorine but also chemical warfare agents and mustard gas in particular. There is evidence that ISIL has been given access to the relevant technical documentation and has been attracting experts from abroad to work on synthesizing such agents in labs on territory they have captured. The nature and extent of the threats emanating from ISIL and other terrorist organizations have reached unacceptable levels.

At the same time, in just the past few days, and after the adoption of resolution 2235 (2015), on the establishment of the Joint Investigative Mechanism, there have been reports of ISIL's increasing use of chemical weapons in Syria's neighbour Iraq. Any failure to attend to such incidents is both unacceptable and extremely dangerous. In that regard, the Russian delegation believes the Security Council should adopt a draft resolution extending the mechanism's mandate to Iraq, and we have begun working on that. We believe that such a resolution is urgent, even if it represents only one brick in the wall needed for a foundation for settling the region's worst problems, which have left a number of countries in the Middle East and North Africa facing real threats to their territorial integrity. The proliferating conflicts fuel the potential risks of terrorism. ISIL's fighters are trying to bring ever greater expanses of territory under the control of their quasi-State.

It has become ever more critical that we undertake a comprehensive analysis of the nature of the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa with the aim of deciding the direction of our collective work on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations. We must find the common denominators and form a shared understanding of both the reasons for the current massive security crisis in the region and the political and other factors that are compounding it. That is the only way that the international community, with the Security Council playing a key role, can achieve the measures agreed on for preventing the region's growing potential for conflict and terrorist activity. On 30 September we plan to hold an open debate at the ministerial level on the subject "Maintenance of international peace and security: settling conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and the fight

against the terrorist threat in the region". Based on its conclusions, we plan to adopt a draft presidential statement highlighting the urgent measures we need to take to resolve and end the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as possible further steps for mitigating the risks of terrorism in the region. We are hoping for the broad participation of Member States at a high level. We believe the topic's relevance has been fully affirmed by the work of the Council in August, in which we have attempted to unravel the Middle East's knotty problems strand by separate strand. That experience has shown that we can restore the region only through a comprehensive approach on a firm basis of international law, without double standards and founded on the prerogatives of the Security Council.

In conclusion, I would like to express our thanks to all the members who have promised their support to the Russian presidency of the Council for the month of September.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): Before I begin my statement, on behalf of the delegation of Chad, I would like to offer our sincere condolences to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations as a whole, the Government of Brazil and the bereaved family of General José Luiz Jaborandy, Jr.

I would first like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your and your team's excellent leadership of the Council for the month of August. I would also like to thank you for organizing this meeting under presidential note S/2010/507. The month of August has been very busy and all the scheduled meetings, along with many others dictated by circumstances dictated, were appropriately held, a fact that we welcome.

We noted with satisfaction that under the Nigerian presidency the Council adopted by consensus resolution 2235 (2015), creating the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations designed to identify persons and entities in the Syrian conflict who may be using chemical weapons or products, including chlorine and other toxic substances. In view of the fact that the civilian population of Syria continues to be the target of attacks involving such banned weapons and substances, this resolution is of major importance.

On 17 August the Council also unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/15) in support of the initiative of Mr. Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, aimed at launching political negotiations around the four areas covered by the corresponding working groups. The efforts of Mr. De Mistura should be unreservedly supported with a view to helping the parties to the conflict to end hostilities and engage in a peaceful political process. There is no military solution to the Syrian crisis. We welcome the adoption of the presidential statement, even though we regret the lack of transparency surrounding the drafting of the document without the involvement of the Council's non-permanent members. In that connection, we share the concerns expressed by some delegations with regard to such exclusions and stress the need for cohesion in the Council beyond its members' status, two thirds of whom are guided by the mandate of the General Assembly.

This month, the Security Council also considered the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security (see S/PV.7505). Regional organizations are uniquely suited to addressing the multifaceted threats to international peace and security. We look forward to the African Union remaining a strategic partner. It must receive the support it deserves. Moreover, we believe that relations between the African Union and the United Nations have not yet reached the desired strategic level, and we stress the need to support the African Union in its efforts to complement the work of the United Nations through sustainable, predictable and more flexible funding.

On 13 August, the Council also considered the Ebola virus pandemic (see S/PV.7502). We recall that the epidemic that ravaged the three most affected countries — Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone — was a real threat to the entire planet, as it affected many other countries, including countries outside Africa. We welcome the international community's consistent mobilization to address the pandemic, and we call on it to provide all the necessary support to the countries most affected in order to stem the disastrous socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic on their development.

The Council also addressed security sector reform in post-conflict countries (see S/PV.7508). We emphasize that United Nations support for security sector reform is essential; however, national ownership and the priorities of the country concerned, depending on its particular needs, must be taken into account. The Council must also improve its interaction with the African Union, which has already established a

strategic framework on security sector reform, so as to better assist African States.

Furthermore, we note that the Council adopted a presidential statement on South Sudan (S/PRST/2015/16) following the signing of the peace agreement by all of the parties concerned. Chad welcomes the signing of the agreement and calls upon all signatory parties to implement it in good faith in order to end the suffering of the people of South Sudan.

Libya, Guinea Bissau and the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, among others, were also the subject of Council consultations. The security and humanitarian situation in Libya remains a source of great concern, and the lack of a solution to the political and institutional crisis not only affects the future of that country but also threatens security and stability throughout the Sahel owing to the terrorist and criminal activities developing there. We call upon the United Nations to work closely with the African Union and the League of Arab States to bring all Libyan stakeholders to participate consistently in the political process in order to silence the weapons and ensure a Government of national unity in the country.

The institutional crisis in Guinea Bissau is also alarming. The international community must make every effort to support efforts along the difficult path towards a democratic process, as well as the momentum towards socioeconomic recovery and the reforms needed to ensure the country's lasting stability. In that regard, we call for respect for the Constitution of the country, and we underscore the need for the army to stay out of the crisis.

The Palestinian crisis is, as usual, at an impasse, without a glimmer of hope for the Palestinian people under occupation. We reiterate that the status quo is not an option. The international community must assume its responsibilities in finding a lasting solution to the conflict, which has lasted too long.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our congratulations to you, Madam President, and to the entire Nigerian team, for your outstanding work, the relevant topics that you have addressed and your excellent conduct of the Council's work this month. I also take this opportunity to wish every success to the entire team of the Russian Federation on its assumption of the presidency for the month of September, and we wish to assure it of the support of the Chadian delegation.

Mr. Omaish (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to join others in expressing our condolences over the passing away of the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

I thank you, Madam President, and your team for your successful conduct of the work of the Security Council during the month of August. Allow me to address the following specific points.

The Nigerian presidency has focused on the same issues this past month as did in April 2014, during its prior presidency of the Council, including security sector reform. We believe that has effectively contributed to the follow-up on the subject and has ensured the Council's effective involvement in, and a review of, the practical implementation of its resolutions on the subject. It is our hope that this will become a recurrent method on the part of those members that are provided the opportunity to preside over the Council for more than one month.

The complicated conflicts and humanitarian, security and political situations of the past decades have regrettably led to the fact that issues in our region have taken up a large part of the Council's agenda, without any real progress in their consideration, particularly regarding the question of Palestine, which represents the core of the conflict in the Middle East. We reiterate the need for the Council to shoulder its moral and legal responsibilities in order to help the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate right to live in freedom and dignity in an independent State.

Concerning the Syrian conflict, we welcome the unity of purpose in the Council, as exemplified by the adoption of the important presidential statement S/PRST/2015/15, in support of the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, towards a political solution based on the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex), as well as the adoption of resolution 2235 (2015), which establishses the Joint Investigative Mechanism to address the use of chemical weapons in Syria. However, we wish to stress that unity is not merely about the Council adopting a resolution or a presidential statement. Unity is also about the working methods of the Security Council, in particular when it comes to the adoption of such products. We also stress that the Security Council should not concentrate merely on the political or security issues related to the Syrian crisis. It should also focus on the humanitarian ones — in the light of

the serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Syria — as well as the grave, unprecedented repercussions on neighbouring countries, owing in particular to the outflow of Syrian refugees.

It is very important that the Security Council remain informed about all of those issues in the Middle East. We believe that the Security Council resolutions and its meetings with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict provide a useful opportunity for members of the Council to learn more about the plight of civilians in Syria and Iraq, as well as about violations of human rights.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the delegation of the Russian Federation on its assumption of the presidency of the Council next month, and we pledge our full support and cooperation.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Along with the other delegations, I would like to express my condolences to the family of the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), whom I had the honour to know. I extend my condolences to the family of General Jaborandy, to Brazil and to all of the MINUSTAH staff in general.

I would also like to commend you, Madam President, for the outstanding manner in which you have led the Security Council during the month of August, which is not always an easy month.

I would like to refer, first of all, to the relations between the Secretary Council and the General Assembly and the efforts that we have made to improve them. Secondly, I would like to highlight the lessons learned during these past two months — and I think there are three lessons.

The presidencies of both Nigeria and New Zealand made great efforts with regard to relations between the Security Council and the General Assembly. Under the New Zealand presidency, I would characterize as exemplary the debate on the process of electing the Secretary-General, which affects not only the Security Council but also the General Assembly. Turning to the Nigerian presidency, I recall the constant efforts of the President — at the end of each meeting — to pull together the common threads of the discussion for presentation to the press. I think that is a fundamental task for all presidencies, and I hope that, when Spain assumes the presidency of the Council, that will also be our approach. As to working methods, the issue is fundamental. During our presidency in October, therefore, Spain will organize a debate on that subject. We are working intensively with Angola to prepare that debate, and we are confident that it will have a very satisfactory outcome.

I said that I was going to come back to the lessons learned over these past two months. The first pertains to the unity of the Council, the second to prevention, or the preventive tasks of the Council, and the third to the relevance of addressing new threats. With regard to the first lesson learned, namely, the unity of the Council — and many have said this before me — it would not have been possible without that unity to adopt four absolutely fundamental decisions. The first of those was the nuclear agreement with Iran — resolution 2231 (2015). The second was the adoption of resolution 2235 (2015), on Syria. And the third was the support given to Special Envoy De Mistura via presidential statement S/PRST/2015/15. Fourthly, the agreement with South Sudan would not have been possible without everyone having been on the same wavelength.

Concerning the second lesson learned — I am referring to the preventive action of the Secretary-General — I think that we can be proud of the way in which the Council reacted in a deft and effective manner to the crisis in Guinea-Bissau, the electoral process in Burkina Faso and the situation in Myanmar. The preventive function of the Council, which I need not point out, is absolutely fundamental for maintaining our credibility.

Finally, there is the importance of being innovative and of addressing new threats to peace and security. As a preview to that innovation, I will mention the activities undertaken by Spain on climate change under the Arria Formula — those are subjects that are not frequently discussed in the Security Council — and the open debate that I had the honour of organizing with New Zealand in relation to small island developing States (see S/PV.7499). I think that the Security Council should be ahead of the curve and decisively address such new threats. Accordingly, I would like to focus on the last 60 days — which have marked an unprecedented success — when, for the first time in history, the Security Council took up the particular vulnerability of people belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Clearly, it is also important that the Council discuss sexual violence in conflict, as that has become a constant tactic of war, particularly in crises such as those in Syria and Iraq.

Spain will follow closely all of those new threats. In that context, we will count on the cooperation of the United Kingdom in paying particular attention to resolution 1325 (2000) and the numerous aspects addressed in that very important resolution. Many of them have not yet been sufficiently implemented or analyzed by members of the Council, or by the Organization in general.

In conclusion, I would like express my full support for the upcoming presidency of the Russian Federation, as well as to commend the presidency of Nigeria. In all sincerity, I think that each presidency gives the best of itself, and I think that, on the topic of working methods, each of us is laying an additional brick in the wall that we are trying to build for us all.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): On this last day of your presidency, Madam President, I would like to thank you for your wise stewardship of the Security Council during the month of August.

I would like also to join my delegation's voice to the condolences that have been expressed with regard to the tragic death of the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to his family and to all those who knew him and will suffer that loss.

I shall try to touch upon two thematic issues that link both the July and the August activities of the Council: the aspect of prevention and the aspect of accountability.

While the work of the Council is often constrained by mandate cycles, and most of the open debates that we organize are held on a certain number of important issues, New Zealand's open debate (see S/PV.7499) on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS) was, in my opinion, a welcome breath of fresh air. We hope that the Council's engagement with SIDS regarding the specific security challenges those countries are facing will continue, that it will include follow-up and that the rare opportunity for preventive action will not be missed by the Council on such crucial challenges as managing the effects of climate change, climate-induced displacement and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, among others.

A sharper focus on prevention is more urgent than ever. The Council's close monitoring of the situations in Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Burkina-Faso and Myanmar goes in that direction. While not all of our signals have been heard by the political actors on the ground, the very fact that the Council follows such situations closely puts it in a better position to react quickly and effectively, if and when needed. However, that is not enough. The Council should take advantage of more opportunities, and more substantive steps need to be taken in prevention in general. I look forward to that issue being developed by the presidencies that will follow until the end of the current year, and beyond. Although we will no longer be members of the Security Council in 2016, Lithuania will of course follow with keen interest issues relating to prevention.

At the beginning of this month, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2235 (2015), which establishes the Joint Investigative Mechanism in Syria of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which will be mandated to identify those responsible for attacks involving chemical weapons. That is an important step, albeit only the first, towards establishing accountability in that country. That is indispensable if we are truly committed to stamping out the use of chemical weapons everywhere once and for all. We thank the Secretary-General for his recommendations with regard to the establishment of the Mechanism, and we urge the Council to go ahead with full support for that body and its activities.

Besides that particular mechanism, however, impunity certainly reigns elsewhere. Special Representative of the Secretary-General Bangura's briefing on sexual violence in the Middle East (see S/PV.7428) reminded us of that in the starkest possible terms. Justice and accountability cannot be relegated to some time later, because, for many of those affected, that "some time later" may never come. Tackling impunity is crucial, be it in Syria, Darfur, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Iraq, Yemen or any other conflict area where crimes against humanity, war crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law have been perpetrated. Whoever the perpetrators may be, holding them to account would contribute to reconciliation and healing, build stronger foundations for peace and ensure justice for the victims. Importantly, it would also send a strong deterrent message to would-be rapists, marauders and murderers.

In that respect, my delegation was profoundly disappointed with the outcome of the votes last July on the draft resolutions on Srebrenica and on establishing

an international tribunal on the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17. Vetoing resolutions that address the issue of justice and accountability is an affront to the memories of the victims of those crimes and to the pain of their families. It also, dangerously, sends a very wrong signal on how we deal with issues of accountability and impunity.

On the other hand, the situation in July concerning those two vetoes only highlights the urgency of addressing the Council's use of the veto. Today, other delegations preceding me spoke about that. We appreciate the fact that the New Zealand presidency organized an informal discussion on the topic in July. Lithuania supports such efforts, the political statement on the suspension of the veto in case of mass atrocities presented by France and Mexico, as well as discussions on a code of conduct developed by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group.

On the issue of accountability, the Council should certainly remain strongly and continuously engaged on the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeepers. If ignored, such abuses will continue undercutting the credibility of United Nations peacekeeping, and of the United Nations itself. The problems certainly did not start with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. It keeps reappearing ever so often. If we remember, back in 2006, in the wake of a sexual exploitation scandal in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the former Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, said,

> "We dishonour these brave men and women when we fail to prevent or punish those from within their ranks who victimize the very people peacekeepers are meant to protect and serve." (*S/PV.5379, p. 3*)

Several thousand peacekeepers have died in the line of duty over the years — let us remember that. Peacekeeping missions are becoming more and more complex and dangerous. Many peacekeepers and civilian staff serve in truly difficult conditions, of which I had a glimpse myself last week during a trip to the Central African Republic. To serve under such conditions takes endurance and commitment. It is therefore even more imperative that justice be done, in the interests of those thousands of peacekeepers and mission staff who serve with dedication, by going with full force after those few transgressors who have used a peacekeeping mission to transform it from its role of protector to that of predator. While the United Nations does not have the authority to prosecute crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by peacekeepers, it can certainly do more to promote a climate of accountability in other ways by building a durable, pervasive culture of accountability from top to bottom and from bottom to top.

We welcome the strong position that the Secretary-General has taken on the matter, and we hope that a zero-tolerance policy, which we so often preach, will finally become a fact rather than just a mere expression. We also hope that the Council does not have to meet again to debate the shameful behaviour of a few peacekeepers 10 years from now.

Mr. Casimiro (Angola): We, too, take this opportunity to join other Security Council members in expressing our sincere condolences to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and to the Brazilian Government and its people for the demise of the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

Allow me, at the outset, to commend the delegation of Nigeria for an efficient and productive presidency of the Security Council for the month of August. We continued to face significant challenges this month, and I wish to commend you, Mrs. Ogwu, for your poise and professionalism in guiding the work of the Council during August 2015.

I would like to focus my remarks for today's wrap-up session on the open debate on regional organizations and on contemporary challenges to global security and the subsequent briefing on security sector reforms. As we mentioned during the debate on the role of regional organizations (see S/PV.7505), it is certain that global, continental and subregional cooperation are critical to the achievement of international peace and security and sustainable development. We are all aware that security issues cannot be tackled by one organization alone, particularly in Africa. Somalia represents an example of productive collaboration, while in South Sudan much more has to be done.

The ability of a united Security Council to meet its heavy responsibilities would be greatly improved if we had better arrangements with regional organizations. Therefore, continuous and increased engagement, interaction and consultation between the United Nations and regional organizations, such as the African Union, are crucial to developing a shared

understanding of the root causes of conflicts, and to establishing appropriate prevention and response mechanisms. Efforts to strengthen both long-term and quick-reaction capacity to address emerging threats in Africa are essential, including the operationalization of the African Union's African Standby Force. That would enable the reinforcement of conflict-resolution capacities on the continent and further support the operations of the United Nations.

In 2013 the African Union launched the process for establishing an implementation mechanism for the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises. While the technical aspects of that are not yet fully defined, we believe that, with the support of African States and United Nations States Members, that mechanism would add much value to efforts to deal with current and future threats to international peace and security. To date, the threats of foreign terrorist fighters, maritime insecurity, organized crime, illegal migration, climate change and energy issues, among others, have shown us that our primary objective must remain strengthening regional bodies that can address those issues.

Key elements for sustainable development include security sector reform based on national ownership, and the prerequisite that a legal framework for national capacity be built through cooperation with the United Nations. While there have been cases of successful security sector reform, such as in Timor-Leste, Liberia and Sierra Leone, too many States still have fragile security structures, which can threaten the security and stability of their neighbours.

In that regard, we applaud the signing of the agreement on 26 August by South Sudan President Salva Kiir to resolve the conflict in that country. We are of the view that the Security Council needs to quickly update the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in order to support the implementation of some of the key tasks in the agreement. We commend the work done by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as the recently expanded efforts of the IGAD-plus arrangement, including the United Nations and the friends of South Sudan from Africa and abroad, to develop and achieve a comprehensive solution that establishes conditions for delivering peace to South Sudan.

Last but not least, we must address the situation in the Middle East, which continues to be plagued by an escalation of conflicts. Groups associated with Al-Qaida, such as Daesh, continue to spread their violent extremist ideology and actions across the region. In Syria, for example, the Council has not succeeded in influencing the parties at war to agree on the elements of a political solution. With the destruction of the education and health systems and other basic services, we have to wonder how many traumatized children will be recruited by radical groups. It is therefore important that we continue to support humanitarian efforts, which aim to deliver aid to the millions of people in need, but we must also push for a political solution to the fractious conflict. We reiterate our willingness to work with international partners on devising new strategies for dealing with violent extremism, which has an impact on so many civilians, including women and children as well as religious and ethnic minorities, throughout the region.

Finally, let us continue to work for unity within the Council in order to promote real and lasting political solutions to the many current conflicts threatening our collective peace and security.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the representative of Nigeria.

I, too, want to lend my voice to those who have expressed condolences on the death of General José Luiz Jaborandy, Jr., of Brazil. As Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, he demonstrated astute leadership and contributed significantly to the achievement of the Mission's mandate.

I want to take my colleagues back to 1599, when Shakespeare wrote in the play *Julius Caesar* that the eye sees not itself but by reflection. Today in 2015, it is not any different. My delegation believes that periodic reflection on the work of the Security Council can contribute significantly by either shaping or modifying the Council's response to the issues under our purview. That is why we have convened this public wrap-up session.

In July, the Council presidency of New Zealand was as innovative as it was bold. New Zealand built a foundation for the discussion of issues that are not so commonplace on the agenda of the Council. We thank them for providing valid points of departure.

During our presidency, we have sought to focus attention on three key issues that we considered not

only of contemporary significance, but also especially interlocking and interdependent. We convened a briefing that took up the international response to the Ebola outbreak (see S/PV.7502); another briefing aimed at giving practical effect to resolution 2151 (2014), the first stand-alone resolution on security sector reform (SSR) (see S/PV.7508); and an open debate on the role of regional and subregional organizations in addressing contemporary security challenges (see S/PV.7505).

Let me commend the Council for the focused attention given to the debate on Ebola. We believe that it offered an opportunity to highlight the roles of various stakeholders in mobilizing a global, rapid, coordinated and sustained response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. In the words of Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, the "world has learned from the Ebola experience." *(S/PV.7502, p. 3)* It is our hope that we will use what we have learned to collectively improve our response to future outbreaks of pandemics. In our view, the debate was successful in underscoring the need for sustained engagement with the countries most affected by the virus. As the world tries to bring the rate of Ebola virus transmission to zero, the international community must remain vigilant and ensure sustained technical, operational and financial support to the affected countries.

On security sector reform (see S/PV.7508), Council delegations affirmed that the successful implementation of resolution 2151 (2014) would ultimately depend on improved coordination of efforts within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and the relevant stakeholders. States have the primary responsibility for their own security within their borders. They must therefore endeavour to provide the political leverage needed to facilitate the required external support in meeting specific SSR targets.

The discussion on regional organizations underscored the importance of utilizing the comparative advantages of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. Regional organizations have demonstrated their relevance through preventive diplomacy, mediation and other collaborative efforts. Specialist regional knowledge, which is invaluable in conflict resolution, can be provided by regional organizations by virtue of their in-depth knowledge of regional actors and their sensitivities to local, historical and cultural factors. As strategies for placing more emphasis on the role of regional and subregional organizations evolve, it is important to periodically assess our options so as to give a more central role to those entities. Let me commend the Member States that participated in the open debate. I believe that their contributions greatly enriched our debate.

The overarching principle of our thematic debates during the past month underscored the imperative of collective action in the maintenance of international peace and security. States must collaborate with regions, which in turn must collaborate with the United Nations. Nigeria is greatly concerned about recent occurrences that have been revealed in the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic, in particular the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. The briefing by the Secretary-General on 13 August on the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by peacekeeping personnel in that country was quite sobering. The Council's response underscored the imperative for the highest standards of conduct to be upheld in United Nations peacekeeping operations. We must remain steadfast in our support of the Secretary-General as he investigates those allegations. We count on the relevant troop- and police-contributing countries to offer the needed support in this investigative process.

As we reflect on the trouble spots across Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and particularly Burma, as we did on Friday, it is clear that nation-building is greatly impeded by sectionalism and ethnicity. The lack of inclusiveness often breeds dissent and conflict. My experience is that we tend to employ a fire-fighting approach to conflicts. Is it not possible for the Council to develop theoretical perspectives, or, indeed, a context in which we can all place those patterns of conflict, and thus provide the best opportunity for strategic solutions? Is that possible?

Even more significant, I would like to urge the Council to firmly establish what I have often referred to as the cause-and-effect relationship between the dire humanitarian situations that we confront in areas of conflict and the political process. Yes, we are right — Mr. O'Brien has briefed us many times in the Council this month — about our feeling of urgency on humanitarian issues. But if we continue to diverge on what gives effect to a humanitarian situation, I believe we cannot succeed. Let us together treat the symptoms as well as the causes. We tend to treat symptoms rather than causes. We must address the root causes of conflict.

I would like to end where I began, by offering the wisdom of Shakespeare. On the matter of unity in dealing with political situations, in Act I, Scene i, Shakespeare said in *Henry VI, Part II*, "Join we together, for the public good".

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

Before I adjourn the meeting, as this is the last scheduled meeting of the Council for the month of August — I hope — I would like to express the sincere appreciation of the delegation of Nigeria to the members of the Council, especially my colleagues the Permanent Representatives and their respective staffs, as well as to the entire secretariat of the Council, for all the support they have offered to us. Quite unexpectedly, it has been a very busy month — and one during which we all rallied to consensus on several issues within our purview. We could not have done it alone. Thanks to God, we were not isolated. Without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and of the representatives of the Secretariat, as well as other relevant Conference Services Officers, it would have been difficult.

As we end our presidency at midnight, I know that I speak on behalf of the Council in wishing the delegation of the Russian Federation every good fortune as it assumes the presidency during the month of September.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7517

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7517th meeting

Wednesday, 2 September 2015, 11.35 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 21 July 2015 from the Panel of Experts on Liberia established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/558)

Letter dated 31 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/590)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-27006 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President (*spoke in Russian*): As this is the first formal meeting of the Security Council for the month of September, I should like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Mrs. Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, for her service as President of the Council during the month of August. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Ogwu and her delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 21 July 2015 from the Panel of Experts on Liberia established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/558)

Letter dated 31 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/590)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/670, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/590, which contains the text of a letter dated 31 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/558, which contains the text of a letter dated 21 July 2015 from the Panel of Experts on Liberia established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2237 (2015).

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7518

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 September 2015

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7518th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 8 September 2015, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 8 September 2015, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 7518th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

"The President invited Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Mr. Titov."

15-15260 (E) 080915

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United Nations S/PV.7519

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7519th meeting

Thursday, 10 September 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Iliichev	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Santa Rosa
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Klein
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2015/620)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-27587 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2015/620)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Liberia to participate in this meeting. On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Benedict Sannoh, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Liberia.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and His Excellency Mr. Olof Skoog, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Sweden.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/620, which contains the thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous: At this time last year, the situation in Liberia was of deep concern. The country was in the throes of a national tragedy, an unprecedented health emergency that was devastating families and communities, threatened to reverse the political and security gains made since the end of the civil war and risked tearing apart Liberia's fragile social fabric. The Security Council recognized that this health emergency posed a threat to international peace and security. Fortunately, the country has since turned a corner.

The people of Liberia endured the trauma of Ebola with resilience, dignity and a profound determination to overcome. Indeed, their efforts were rewarded: on 3 September, Liberia was again declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organization. I would therefore like to begin my remarks by commending the Minister of Justice and his Government on the leadership provided during the Ebola crisis, and now as the country works toward recovery. I would also take this opportunity to express my profound admiration for the people of Liberia, who galvanized themselves at every level, including at the community level. I also express my appreciation for the Council's mobilization of international support for the countries most severely impacted by Ebola, including Liberia.

Liberia is making progress on a number of fronts, including important momentum on essential political reforms. The Government has launched a deconcentration programme, which is a critical first step in decentralizing the reach of the State — which, for the time being, is concentrated primarily in Monrovia — so that local officials are empowered and citizens throughout the country are able to benefit from the most basic of services.

The constitutional review process has also made progress. Last month, President Johnson-Sirleaf transmitted to the legislature 25 proposed amendments that emerged from that process, along with her recommendations. I note that the President categorically rejected — and suggested that Liberia's elected representatives should also reject —exclusionary provisions such as declaring Liberia a Christian nation and requiring African ancestry for citizenship. Recommendations also include proposed changes that the President supported, such as a shorter term for elected officials, including presidents and legislators.

Meanwhile, litigation related to last December's senatorial elections is nearly completed, with only one appeal still pending. I think that the 2014 electoral process demonstrated many encouraging elements about the independence and maturity of Liberia's democracy, including with respect to the capacity of national institutions to conduct elections throughout the country in circumstances, we recall, that were difficult and with limited means. The subsequent appeal process has demonstrated the continuing commitment of the political class of the country to seeking the resolution of disputes through legal channels.

I turn now to the security situation, which remains generally stable, although public order is still a source of concern, as demonstrated by periodic incidents, for instance, between the police and motorcycle taxi drivers in Monrovia, and some public disturbances at concessions. But I am pleased to note that since the

Secretary-General's report (S/2015/620) was issued on 13 August, there have been no major security incidents.

In the meantime, Liberia is working hard to build its institutions, pass legislation and put in place mechanisms that will enable it to maintain stability without the presence of a peacekeeping force. All but one of Liberia's counties have established a county security council that brings together security actors to share information, provide early warning of risks, and advise national decision-makers. This is an important tool for channelling local-level knowledge and capacities in order to prevent localized disputes from spiralling into larger conflicts. Most recently, the council of Grand Gedeh conducted an assessment of community complaints about the cross-border encroachment on farmland by foreign nationals, with a view to formulating recommendations to mitigate the spread of that dispute.

The Government remains committed to making every effort to mobilize the resources needed to develop its capacity to maintain stability and protect its population independently of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Last week, the President signed into law the 2016-2017 national budget of $622 million, which includes $20 million in resources allocated to the security transition. However, the Government estimates that $37 million are still required for the transition process.

Last week, the joint implementation group — which brings together the Government and its key partners, including UNMIL, which oversees the security transition — agreed to reprioritize tasks and associated costs in order to ensure the effective achievement of key milestones in the transition process. It also agreed to undertake a more robust approach to measuring progress against planed benchmarks and activities. UNMIL and the country team are supporting the establishment of a programme management office for the security transition, which is focused on project implementation, with particular emphasis on fiscal responsibility and timely delivery.

The legislature is also doing its part. It has actually postponed its recess so as to be able to review essential pending draft legislation, including proposed acts for the police and immigration that include important provisions for civilian oversight. However, some important legislation remains pending, including a firearms control bill that the Secretary-General recently flagged as critical in the context of the sanctions regime.

The quadripartite mechanism bringing together UNMIL with its sister mission, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as Liberian and Ivorian officials, resumed in March with a meeting held in Abidjan. However, the formal joint border security operations that were suspended in early 2014 due to concerns about Ebola and concerns that it might spread into Côte d'Ivoire have, regrettably, not yet resumed. Planned meetings of chiefs and elders in the border area, and the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees living in Liberia, especially in the area of Zwedru, are still suspended until after the elections in Côte D'Ivoire in October. In the meantime, UNMIL is working closely with the Mano River Union to implement its security strategy.

In April, the Council decided to resume the progressive drawdown of UNMIL, which had been suspended during the crisis. Since the adoption of resolution 2215 (2015), UNMIL has been reduced by 1,221 troops, reaching this month its new military strength of 3,590 personnel. Additionally, the authorized strength of UNMIL's police component now reflects its actual deployment of 1,515 personnel, including eight formed police units, individual police officers and immigration advisers.

In the report before the Council, the Secretary-General recommends further reductions to military, police and civilian components of UNMIL, taking into account the Council's expectation that the Government of Liberia will be fully responsible for security as of 30 June 2016. The strategic concept that underpins these recommendations is the consolidation of the remaining armed capacity of UNMIL, which would be able to provide rapid response in support of the Liberian security institutions in the event of a serious, sudden deterioration of the security situation.

Specifically, by the conclusion of the security transition in the precise middle of next year, the UNMIL force would be reduced to 1,240 personnel, including one battalion with support and enabling units, especially aviation. The police component would likewise be reduced to 606 personnel, including three formed police units, in addition to police and immigration advisers, as well as prison advisers. It will, however, be important for UNMIL to retain the capacity to provide such support for some months after

the conclusion of the security transition so as to test the capability of Liberian security personnel to protect civilians and respond to security incidents in order to mitigate any risk of reversal.

I should also note that the Secretary-General's new Special Representative for Liberia, Mr. Farid Zarif — whom many here know well — deployed last Monday. He has considerable experience in peacekeeping, particularly in Liberia, and I am sure that he will provide critical leadership at this important period in the Mission's lifecycle.

Liberia is a country that can be characterized by the remarkable ability of its people to overcome seemingly impossible adversity. These are a people who have endured and are still enduring the devastation wrought by more than a century of systematic exclusion, decades of dysfunction, and 14 years of successive, brutal civil wars. For more than a year, the people of Liberia were confronted with a national tragedy that took shape in the form of a medical emergency. And yet, once again, the country has turned a corner and transcended adversity. Thus, there is yet again an opportunityto create a better Liberia.

Now, it is with the people and Government of Liberia that lies the important work of continuing to build a nation — a unified, reconciled nation with a Government that has to be accountable and committed to addressing corruption within its ranks; a nation in which all citizens share the benefits of the country's abundant natural resources; a nation that has to be fully responsible for its own destiny, with institutions and a Government able to provide the basic guarantees of security, protection and services to all its citizens.

The decision taken by the Council to set 30 June 2016 as the date for the full assumption of security responsibilities by national authorities is, I believe, a remarkable demonstration of confidence that the country has overcome both the instability and the dependency of the past, and that it is moving steadfastly in the direction of building a viable, united and fully independent nation. We shall continue to support the people and the Government of Liberia in that endeavour, with the hard-won stability enduring for all of the succeeding generations of the country.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to Mr. Skoog.

Mr. Skoog: I thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to address the Council this morning on behalf of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I wish also to thank Under-Secretary General Ladsous for his very pertinent briefing this morning.

First, I, too, wish to congratulate Liberia on having been declared Ebola-free last week by the World Health Organization. The Peacebuilding Commission has been very impressed by the steadfast determination of the Liberian people and the Government, represented here by the Minister, to fight the disease, and I am heartened by the fact that full attention can now be geared towards recovery. As we have continuously stressed, peacebuilding must form part and parcel of rebuilding after the Ebola crisis. The crisis exposed gaps in the peacebuilding and State-building efforts made to date, including in the area of building trust between citizens and the State, and with regard to strengthening the social fabric. The economic downturn that followed after the Ebola crisis must be met with increased support from the international community for revitalizing socioeconomic development.

Let me turn to the main focus of today's briefing: the continued drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the handing over of security and stability tasks to the national authorities at the conclusion of the security transition, by 30 June 2016. As the Secretary-General has pointed out in his report (S/2015/620), the assumption of responsibility for security in the country by the Government of Liberia will be an important milestone in post-conflict Liberia and a demonstration of confidence that the country has turned the corner from conflict, as Mr. Ladsous just pointed out.

In this regard, the leadership of and ownership by the Liberian Government will be absolutely essential as the national authorities prepare to take over. The international community will, of course, have to maintain an important role in supporting and accompanying Liberia in this transition phase.

At the same time, it will be important to not only focus attention on what needs to happen until June 2016, but equally so on what needs to follow the conclusion of the security transition. Early and proper planning is needed. Only by identifying longer-term peacebuilding needs can we now jointly ensure that the required capacity and support structures are in place to reinforce national efforts. The Peacebuilding Commission will continue to stress the imperative of greater focus on institutional reforms and capacity-building,

socioeconomic development and the strengthening of the justice sector in the context of consolidating Liberia's peace efforts.

The international community has generated experience and a body of knowledge on United Nations mission transitions, upon which we should now seek to draw. In our view, there are no excuses for not learning from past successes as well as failures. We know that the drawdown of United Nations missions constitutes a defining moment on the path to sustainable peace and development. However, we are still experiencing significant gaps in political attention, as well as in the financing of critical processes, programmes and institutions. We could certainly do better when it comes to transitioning between different modes of United Nations engagement on a general level. In this regard, we are fortunate to have had two recent reviews on how to strengthen peace operations that offer a detailed analysis. The PBC stands ready to learn from these analyses and to do our utmost to provide effective and relevant support to Liberia in its crucial next phase.

The Peacebuilding Commission will continue to act as a convener and to advise and help mobilize resources for Liberia's key longer-term peacebuilding priorities. The Liberia configuration, which I chair, intends to soon host a meeting with all relevant stakeholders involved in peacebuilding efforts with the aim of identifying needs, discussing capacity and potential gaps, and looking at where funding is falling short and where donors could do more. Such a meeting would constitute an opportunity for the Liberian Government to brief on the progress made under its transition plan and for UNMIL to provide an update on the security transition. The meeting will also help shed light on local perspectives of civil-society organizations and grass-roots actors. We hope that these discussions will complement and add to the work undertaken in the joint implementation group in Monrovia, which is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Government's plan for the UNMIL transition. The Commission is ready to share the conclusions of those deliberations with the Council.

In addition, in order to ensure that the Peacebuilding Commission plays a relevant role beyond the transition, the configuration has taken steps towards the revision of its current instruments of engagement with Liberia. The Commission has invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations for a updated framework of engagement for the PBC in view of the security transition. This strategic input by the United Nations system will be critical to enabling the Commission to play an effective role and will help align our support for the efforts made by the operational actors in the field. Those actors include the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank.

The key priorities of our current engagement remain valid, namely, reform of the security sector, national reconciliation and the rule of law. The updated instrument is intended to align and bring together existing national plans, including the Agenda for Transformation, the Government's plan for the UNMIL transition and the Ebola recovery plan. The configuration looks forward to engaging with the Liberian Government on updating our framework of engagement, and we will keep the Council informed on this exercise as well.

As Liberia is preparing for the security transition, it is simultaneously grappling with a number of other reforms with a bearing on peace consolidation. The preparations for the elections in 2017, the current constitutional review and the process of decentralization will also remain on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, as these processes will affect fundamental aspects of State- and nation-building. Similarly, implementing the strategic road map for national healing, peacebuilding and reconciliation also remains imperative. We will also try to highlight land issues and their relevance to the crucial area of natural-resource management, not only to ensure reduced tensions between affected communities and concessionaires, but also to help Liberia develop a sustainable source of domestic revenue. Lastly, tackling corruption with continued vigor will be key in order to raise public trust in Government institutions.

In closing, one might say that the value-added of the accompanying role of the Peacebuilding Commission is clearly being tested as a post-conflict country approaches a milestone in its journey towards sustaining peace. Liberia has a challenging year ahead. The Council and bilateral and multilateral partners have accumulated experience and knowledge that we must continue to deploy in support of Liberia's own efforts to consolidate peace. The Commission that I chair stands ready to contribute to all these efforts focused on national priorities and sustained peace.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I give the floor to Mr. Sannoh.

Mr. Sannoh (Liberia): It is an honour and a privilege for me to address the Council as it considers the thirtieth progress report of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (S/2015/620).

On 3 September 2015, Liberia was declared Ebola-free for the second time by the World Health Organization. Although this would not have been possible without the strong leadership of our President, Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and the resilience of the people of Liberia, we owe a debt of gratitude to the United Nations and our international partners for walking along with us to cross this bridge. It has been a difficult road for us as a people and a nation. The steep decline in the economy due to the Ebola crisis remains the greatest challenge to our nation, and the reverberations of that decline will continue to have an impact on all sectors of the Government, especially the justice and security sectors.

Permit me therefore to express appreciation to the Secretary-General, members of the Council, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Liberia configuration, as well as our bilateral and other multilateral partners, for their invaluable support, which enabled us to contain the Ebola scourge.

The Secretary-General has noted in his report (S/2015/620) that the assumption of security responsibilities for UNMIL will mark a historic moment in post-conflict Liberia, whereby the fate of the country and the protection of its citizens will, for the first time in more than a decade, be completely in the hands of the national authorities. I agree fully with the Secretary-General that this will be an important turning point in our nation's history. The Government is doing everything possible to make this a reality.

As Council members may be aware, the plan for Liberia to assume this responsibility has five strategic objectives. The first objective is to fill immediate security gaps created by the UNMIL drawdown throughout the country. The second objective is to strengthen response capacity in threat-prone regions of the country. The third objective is to simultaneously pursue all normal conventional security operations throughout the country. The fourth objective is to reform the legal frameworks of the sector agencies. The fifth objective is to build the capacity of the sector. Significant progress has been made towards the achievement of these objectives.

In close collaboration with our partners, the Government now has a clear road map, especially with regard to the structural and implementation arrangements of the plan. The Government has disaggregated the plan. The priority activities for implementation between now and June 2016 have been identified and costed with timelines. They include those responsibilities that the Government is to take over from UNMIL and those challenges that pose immediate threats to the consolidation of peace. The total budget for these activities is $38.8 million. Against this amount, the Government of Liberia has allocated $20 million in its 2015-2016 budget, and 50 per cent of this amount is to be deposited in a dedicated trust account to enhance timely disbursement and rapid implementation. With the support of the United Nations Development Programme, a transition implementation unit has been established within the Ministry of Justice to coordinate the various activities of the plan.

With respect to the legal framework, in July 2015, the Legislature opened public consultation on a draft firearms act. A draft police act and a draft bureau of immigration and naturalization act have been drawn up, approved by the Cabinet and the National Security Council, and forwarded to the Legislature for enactment. On Monday, 8 September, these draft bills had their first reading in the legislature. Work is also currently in progress on a draft alien and nationality law. These reforms will lead, inter alia, to a strong, coherent and modern legal framework for the justice sector, improving civilian and democratic oversight of the sector's governance system, reducing inter-agency overlapping of functions, professionalizing the sector's management systems and ensuring accountability and efficiency.

Progress is also being made in the area of training. On Saturday, 12 September, the Bureau of Immigration and the Liberian National Fire Service will be graduating 328 officers who have undergone three months of intensive training. The Police, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation are also conducting trainings. Procurement plans are now being finalized for the bulk purchase of needed items prioritized under the disaggregated plan.

I would like to note at this juncture the Government of Liberia's appreciation for the work of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the support of the partners in furtherance of the transition. However, the

Government is concerned about the slow pace of funding commitment or support for implementation of the plan. There is as yet no funding commitment to close the $60 million gap for this fiscal year. It is imperative to give new impetus to resource mobilization initiatives in support of Liberia as foreseen in the statement of mutual commitments with the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Secretary-General has expressed concern about the about the recent surge in violent public disturbances and has linked this surge to deficiencies in the response capacity of the national police, public discontent, alienation and slow pace of reconciliation. However, the violence alluded to represents isolated incidents which relate to motorcyclists and few concession areas. It needs to be taken in context. The essence of any Government is to maintain peace and stability of the body politic, protect human rights and promote the economic and social development of its people. No responsible Government can condone lawlessness, criminality and direct challenges to its constituted authority. As the number of motorbikes in Liberia has increased exponentially, the challenges to the Government have also increased. Working closely with the unions, the Government has now instituted new measures, including limiting the use of motorbikes to certain communities, mandatory registration of all motorbikes, and training and licensing of bike operators, which have considerably decreased motorcycle-associated violence over the past five months.

The violence in the concession areas is related to unresolved employer-employee issues and disagreements among the communities' leadership in the negotiation process on the granting of additional land beyond that covered under concession agreements. To each incident of violence, however, the Liberia National Police responded and restored control. Where human rights violations by the police have been alleged, the accused are investigated and brought to justice if they are found to be culpable.

With respect to the Secretary-General's observations of public discontent, alienation and slow pace of reconciliation, it is the Government's view that through its ongoing programmes in areas such as access to justice, infrastructure development, including an improved road network that facilitates the movement of people and commerce, and the decentralization of governance, it is in fact promoting reconciliation and addressing alienation and discontent.

Both Mr. Ladsous and the PBC Chair have commented on the situation in Liberia and the challenges that we face. We thank them for their perspectives. However, some significant developments have not been fully covered. First, the initial reactions to the proposed amendment to declare Liberia a Christian State, which caused divisions along religious lines during the constitutional review process, as noted in paragraph 10 of the report, have all been quietened, as the parties realized that it was just a proposal subject to the approval of the Legislature and a referendum.

The Constitution Review Committee has now completed its task and submitted 25 recommendations to the President, who transmitted them to the national legislature along with her comments. Some of the key recommendations advanced relate to dual nationality, ownership of land, and reduction of the terms of the President, Senators and members of the House of Representatives. These recommendations, if approved, will be subject to referendum, which will take place concurrent with the 2017 general elections.

While it is true that corruption continues to dominate public attention, as reported in paragraph 14 of the report, some progress continues to be noted. The Government obtained indictments and prosecuted a number of high profile cases including the National Oil Company of Liberia case, the case of the illegal issuance of logging permits involving officials of the Forestry Development Authority, and the case involving the National Drug Service. As I noted in my most recent statement to the Council (see S/PV.7438), in response to the twenty-ninth report of the Secretary-General (S/2015/275), capacity and resource constraints still pose a threat to the fight against corruption. The Ministry of Justice has restructured the Prosecutorial Department and created five new divisions, one of which is focused on anti-corruption litigation, exclusively handling cases referred to the Ministry by Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and the General Auditing Commission. The Government of Liberia remains committed to the fight against corruption and calls upon its partners to help strengthen the investigative and prosecutorial capacity of the Ministry of Justice.

On regional issues, the Government has made diplomatic representations to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire regarding the cross-border movement and activities of Ivoirians and Burkinabés. With general and presidential elections slated for October in Côte d'Ivoire, and with more than 38,000 registered Ivorian

refugees still within the proximity of the border, it is imperative, and the Government has taken steps to ensure, that the borders be routinely monitored with a view to taking actions to avoid conflict along this corridor. We welcome the joint aerial reconnaissance initiative by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and UNMIL in that regard.

On the human rights front, it is important to underscore that no country is free from human rights violations. The insatiable yearning of the people of Liberia for respect of their rights, grounded by our historical commitment to make Liberia a beacon of hope and freedom, makes it very difficult for any Government in Liberia to engage in any persistent patterns of violations of human rights. Therefore, Liberia is making progress. We have intensified efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence, rape and pretrial detentions. Following our participation in the second round of the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva in May, Liberia will be returning to Geneva on 24 September to react to the recommendations put forward by the Human Rights Council. Liberia has complied with its reporting obligations under several human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Liberia remains committed to enhancing the work of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights.

In conclusion, when the Council mandated the Government of Liberia to formulate a plan to assume full responsibility over the security architecture of the country by June 2016, the Government entertained the hope that the financial requirements for the implementation of the plan would not be left to Liberia alone, especially given the steep decline in the economy due to the Ebola crisis. The Secretary-General's report buttresses this hope when, in welcoming the progress made in Liberia, it states that

> "challenges remain that will require additional assistance on all fronts in order to complete the transition by 30 June 2016 in line with the expectation of the Security Council." (*S/2015/620, para. 72*)

The Government and the people of Liberia therefore call upon the Security Council to leverage its position to mobilize international support for the implementation of the transition plan. We also look forward to forging increased engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission to fully consolidate peace in Liberia. The support of Council members will facilitate Liberia turning the corner from conflict to a future of sustained peace.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7520

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7520th meeting

Thursday, 10 September 2015, 4.35 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Malaysia	Mr. Abdul Razak
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2015/624)

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15-27603 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2015/624)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/694, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/624, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2238 (2015).

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7521

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7521st meeting

Tuesday, 15 September 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramirez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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15-28020 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, to participate in this meeting. On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Mladenov, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Jerusalem.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Mladenov.

Mr. Mladenov: Let me begin by wishing all our Jewish colleagues and their families "*shanah tovah*" on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah. I would also like to wish "*eid mubarak*" to all our Muslim colleagues who will celebrate Eid al-Adha next week.

I begin my briefing today with grave concern over the violence and continuing clashes in and around the Old City of Jerusalem. On the morning of 13 September, the Israeli police entered the area outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque in what they said was an operation to head off attempts by extremists to disrupt visits by Jews and non-Muslim tourists. As Palestinian youth sought to barricade themselves in the Mosque, clashes ensued. According to an official statement by the Israeli police, pipe bombs, flares and stones had been stockpiled by the protestors. The Muslim Waqf reported that during this period its guards, for the first time, were not allowed in the compound and that three of its staff membes had been injured. At least 60 others were injured in related fighting.

This pattern of clashes has continued with varying intensity for three days in the Al-Aqsa compound/Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem. It comes after sweeping restrictions on entry into the compound that Israel applied beginning on 26 August. Since then, the Government has decreed an entry ban for members of Muslim and some Jewish groups considered to be extremist. These latest incidents have echoed widely and have been condemned across the Muslim world and beyond, including by Palestinian President Abbas. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has stated that his Government will use all means to maintain the status quo and law and order at the compound.

As the Middle East faces a vicious tide of terror and extremism, such serious provocations have the potential to ignite violence well beyond the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. I urge all political, community and religious leaders to ensure that visitors and worshippers demonstrate restraint and respect for the sanctity of the area. All sides have a responsibility to refrain from provocative actions and rhetoric. It is imperative that the historic status quo be preserved, in line with the agreements between Israel and His Majesty the King of Jordan, as Custodian of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Against this backdrop, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has left an indelible scar on the people and landscape of the region. Frustration, fear and violence have continued to spiral, undermining belief in finding a way out of the impasse. Over the past three months, the Middle East Quartet envoys have actively consulted with Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council and key international partners on how to preserve the two-State solution and establish conditions for the parties to return to meaningful negotiations. All of our discussions have highlighted the region's determination to play a constructive role in resolving the conflict.

But the message from all could not be more clear. Patience is running out. A comprehensive approach must be advocated, consisting of bold, concrete actions on the ground, in the region and internationally. It will necessitate significant policy shifts on the part of Israel, as well as an unflinching commitment on the Palestinian side to achieving genuine national unity. I am encouraged by the efforts of Israel in recent months to ease some restrictions in the West Bank and Gaza. I call on the Government to expand upon them in order to address humanitarian, economic and infrastructural challenges, particularly in Area C of the West Bank. Progress in these areas, based on previously agreed steps, would significantly increase economic opportunities and strengthen security for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Such initiatives must be part of a wider political process aimed at facilitating, not substituting for, a final status agreement. The Palestinian people also

rightly expect their leaders to act decisively to advance national unity. I note the decision of the leadership to consult over the next three months with all factions and concerned Arab States on holding a meeting of the Palestinian National Council for the first time in almost two decades. The Secretary-General encourages all factions to seize that opportunity to take constructive steps to achieve unity on the basis of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) principles and to strengthen the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Regional and international constructive engagement is also key in this process. I encourage Israel to recognize the potential of the Arab Peace Initiative not just for sustainable peace and economic development, but also for creating a shared security architecture in a region that is in turmoil. At the international level, the Secretary-General will chair a meeting of the Quartet on 30 September in order to discuss how to link regional and international efforts to create conditions on the ground for a return to meaningful negotiations.

Even as efforts intensify to return to an atmosphere conducive to talks, the situation on the ground remains precarious. This past month, clashes between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank continued, injuring one Palestinian and four Israelis. One hundred and fifteen Palestinians were injured by the Israel Defence Forces, while six members of the Israeli security forces were injured by Palestinians. In the West Bank, Israeli security forces arrested 282 Palestinians. On 13 September, one Israeli died and two were slightly injured in a car accident in Jerusalem, which may have been caused by a rock-throwing incident.

Also deeply troubling is the continuing Israeli policy of settlement construction and the demolition of Palestinian-owned structures in Area C of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. I call upon Israel to freeze demolitions, to reverse relocation plans and — critically — to expedite the approval of outstanding planning submissions and enable community-led planning processes. Since my last briefing, some 50 Palestinian structures have been demolished. I am alarmed that the calendar month of August saw the highest number of demolitions since June 2010, with 142 Palestinian-owned structures demolished and over 200 people displaced.

Turning to Gaza, let me begin by reminding the Council that the situation there remains precarious and there is growing discontent among the population. With power outages averaging 12 to 16 hours per day, and with 40,000 public sector employees not having received full salaries for over one year, the people of Gaza are suffering. The United Nations will continue to support the efforts of the legitimate Palestinian institutions and to reach out to all factions in order to ensure that the humanitarian, social and economic challenges of Gaza are addressed.

Over the last month, five rockets were fired at Israel by militant groups from Gaza, of which one impacted an open area in southern Israel without causing injury, while a further 10 rockets were test-fired at the sea. Israeli security forces conducted two airstrikes inside the Strip, neither of which resulted in injuries. Such incidents underscore the fragile dynamics within Gaza which, without positive change, will continue to provide fertile ground for extremism to flourish — extremism that will ultimately undermine the Palestinian goal of statehood.

Israeli measures to relax some movement restrictions on Gaza over the past year have not enabled people to maintain normal family and economic ties or to increase their economic self-sufficiency. Moreover, restrictions on the import of goods defined as having a dual use continue to impede humanitarian recovery and reconstruction efforts.

The United Nations reiterates its call for a full lifting of all closures on Gaza, as envisaged in resolution 1860 (2009), with due consideration for the security concerns of Israel and Egypt. In that context, I am glad to report that reconstruction, despite funding shortfalls, is picking up speed I reiterate my call to international partners to disburse their pledges made during the Cairo conference. Meanwhile, some 94,000 homeowners have procured construction material to repair their homes. Construction is also progressing on 315 projects, including housing, water networks and schools, which have been submitted for Israeli approval. Eighteen projects have been completed and 149 are ongoing.

Let me be clear on one point related to Gaza: without genuine Palestinian reconciliation and unity, all efforts to improve the situation will face major difficulties. I welcome the determination of Prime Minister Hamdallah and his efforts to find a solution to the

problem of public sector employees in Gaza. The United Nations stands ready to work with all stakeholders and to support the Government in mobilizing the necessary resources for that process.

With regard to Lebanon, the Council heard a briefing by Special Coordinator Kaag on 2 September. We welcome the launch of a political leaders' dialogue on 9 September to address key issues, including the presidency. On the same day, Prime Minister Salam convened the Cabinet, which agreed on a new waste-management plan. Demonstrators continue to raise demands relating to services and the performance of the political leadership.

On 22 and 25 August, heavy clashes between factions in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al-Hilweh led to a number of fatalities. Following the negotiation of a ceasefire, the situation has now returned to calm.

The situation in area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remains generally quiet. The cooperation of Israel and Lebanon with UNIFIL was illustrated on 20 August. when four rockets exploded in northern Israel without causing injury. Close coordination between UNIFIL and the parties resulted in quick clarification that the rockets that had landed south of the Blue Line had in fact originated from Syria and not from southern Lebanon. In response, Israeli forces hit Syrian military positions in and near the town of Quneitra.

Allow me to conclude by underlining that, for too long, the Israeli and Palestinian populations have lived their lives vacillating between hope and fear, with fear frequently triumphing. The time has now come to right that balance and restore the hope for a peaceful future for both Palestinians and Israelis. To do so will require a broad approach that integrates tough political decisions by the parties on the ground, focused engagement and goodwill of key regional actors, and coherent, reliable support from the international community. The United Nations stands ready to play its role in helping to shape this strategy and to work towards the goal of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Mr. Mladenov for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7522

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7522nd meeting

Tuesday, 15 September 2015, 4 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Safronkov/Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Nigeria	Mr. Adejola
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

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15-28026 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to present the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), in accordance with paragraph 18 of that resolution. The present report covers the period from 23 June to 14 September, during which time the Committee held an informal meeting on 1 September and carried out additional activities, using the no-objection procedure provided for in paragraph 15 of the guidelines for conducting its work.

I should like to start by welcoming the conclusion by Iran, the P5+1 and the European Union on 14 July of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to commend the negotiating parties for their joint efforts to find a comprehensive, long-term and adequate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. I would further like to welcome the adoption on 20 July of resolution 2231 (2015), by which the Council endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, whose conclusion, as affirmed by the Council in its resolution, marks a fundamental shift in its consideration of this issue.

I should like to stress the fact that, during the current transitional period, up until the Security Council's receipt of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in which the IAEA confirms that Iran has taken a set of nuclear-energy-related actions in accordance with the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015), on the day known as Implementation Day, the measures imposed by the Security Council through resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010) remain in full effect, and Member States remain under the obligation to apply them strictly and fully, with due respect for exemptions provided for in resolution 2231 (2015).

The Committee remains fully committed to the implementation of all relevant resolutions and stands ready to provide guidance to those Member States that request assistance.

In relation to past incidents investigated by the Panel of Experts, I would recall that the Committee reached out to the Islamic Republic of Iran for comment on several occasions. The Islamic Republic of Iran has not yet provided a response; the Committee continues to call on it to do so.

The Committee continues to provide States and international organizations with assistance in implementing the relevant Security Council measures. In this regard, the Committee received additional information in relation to the proposal that an international organization provide technical assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Committee is continuing its consideration of the proposal and welcomes such collaboration on issues related to of implementation and compliance, and it encourages parties to continue to seek guidance from the Committee on the application of the Council's measures.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1737 (2006), the Committee was notified by one Member State about the delivery of equipment to be used in a light-water reactor at the Bushehr nuclear plant. Similarly, in accordance with paragraph 15 of resolution 1737 (2006) and paragraph 4 of resolution 1747 (2007), the Committee was notified by one Member State that it had allowed for payments owed by a designated entity, under a contract that entered into force prior to its designation, to be made from that entity's frozen funds. In addition, one Member State submitted two reports in accordance with paragraph 17 of resolution 1929 (2010).

With respect to the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), the Committee is continuing its constructive dialogue on the steps to be taken in the foreseeable future. In that connection, the Committee was notified by one Member State, in accordance with paragraph 22 of resolution 2231 (2015), that it had initiated preparatory steps in relation to establishing a stable

isotope production centre at the Fordow facility and to removing stockpiles of Iranian low-and rich uranium in return for natural uranium.

In view of the actions taken by Member States to implement the relevant Security Council measures, the Committee encourages Sstates that have not yet submitted reports to do so as soon as possible, in recognition of the fact that national implementation reports are an important means of promoting the implementation of sanctions measures.

In connection with the Panel of Experts, I am pleased to report that, following the Security Council's decision, contained in resolution 2224 (2015), of 9 June 2015, to extend the Panel's mandate until 9 July 2016, the Secretary-General appointed on 30 June 2015 seven experts to serve on the Panel.

On 28 August 2015, the Panel submitted its programme of work for the new mandate in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 2224 (2015). On behalf of the Committee, I would like to recognize the continued efforts of the Panel in assisting the work of the Committee. We look forward to close and fruitful collaboration with the Panel under its new mandate. As to the activities undertaken by the Panel over the past three months, I note that the Panel has participated in a number of events that are listed in the annex to the present report.

Finally, while recalling that the primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010) rests with Member States, the Committee stands ready to facilitate implementation of these measures.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I wish to thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing and for his leadership. The Security Council's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue is entering an important period of transition. Two months ago, Council colleagues roundly welcomed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a landmark understanding reached among the P5+1, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran. If fully implemented, the Plan of Action will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Because of our combined diplomatic efforts, the international community will be able to verify that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively peaceful going forward, and we will have taken an important step in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

The Security Council's unanimous endorsement of the deal in resolution 2231 (2015) has helped lay a foundation for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action's successful implementation. Over the long term, the Security Council must play an active role in supporting the deal and ensuring that resolution 2231 (2015) is fully enforced. As of today, we are still in an initial phase of the Plan of Action. Its commitments will not actually go into effect until 90 days after the resolution's adoption. At that point, all the Plan of Action participants are to make the necessary arrangements and preparations for implementing their commitments. For Iran that will mean taking a series of initial nuclear-related steps, such as eliminating 98 per cent of its enriched uranium stockpile, removing thousands of centrifuges, repurposing the facility at Fordow, removing a key component of the Arak reactor and filling it with concrete, and making arrangements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for new transparency measures.

During this interim period, however, the current United Nations sanctions remain in full effect and all States must continue to implement them fully. Similarly, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1367 (2006) and the Panel of Experts should continue to carry out their mandates just as before, including answering inquiries about the sanctions, analysing information about compliance and investigating reported sanctions violations. Countries that detect violations should bring the information to the Committee for its review and action. As soon as the IAEA reports to the Security Council that Iran has completed all of its initial nuclear steps, resolution 2231 (2015) provides for a significant change in the United Nations sanctions architecture. When the report is received, the provisions of the previous Security Council resolutions will terminate and the Iran Sanctions Committee and its Panel of Experts will be dissolved. At the same time, however, resolution 2231 (2015) puts in place binding Chapter VII restrictions related to Iran's nuclear, ballistic-missile and arms-related transfers, as well as ongoing sanctions on designated Iranian individuals and entities. Those measures will be in place for years to come.

As long as these binding restrictions are in force, the Security Council has a vital role to play in ensuring their implementation. Going forward, the Council must be prepared to respond swiftly to any reports of illicit arms smuggling, prohibited ballistic-missile-related transfers, violations of the assets freeze and travel ban, or any other activity in violation of the resolution. As part of that effort, the United States will continue to work closely with its partners to stop and seize shipments that are in violation of resolution 2231 (2015), such as prohibited transfers of weapons and sensitive nuclear- and ballistic-missile-related technology.

The Security Council should be proud of the role it played in helping to bring about the negotiations that led to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Over a period of years, the Council's decisive action, combined with a sustained focus on the issue, supported diplomacy and defused tensions. We call on the Council to continue with the same determination to support the implementation of the Plan of Action and resolution 2231 (2015).

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to start by thanking Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing and by expressing my appreciation for his efforts and those of his team to promote the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

China has always believed that sanctions are not the goal of resolutions, nor a measure of progress in the work of the Committee. Under the current circumstances, the Committee should conduct its work in a balanced and objective manner. It should tackle such sensitive issues as individual violations of Council resolutions, both in terms of ensuring the implementation of those resolutions and in supporting and facilitating the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action so as to prevent the possibility of any measures adding to the complications of implementation. In that spirit, China will take part in the Committee's various efforts in a responsible manner, while encouraging it to play its due role.

In July, the Council adopted resolution 2231 (2015), which endorses the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed on between the P5+1 and Iran on the Iranian nuclear issue. It is a good plan of action in that it is conducive to maintaining the international non-proliferation regime and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, thus having a positive impact on the settlement of other international and regional issues. It is to be hoped that all parties will work in concert to implement it.

Agreement on the Plan of Action, however, is only the first step towards a proper settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue. What is more important is the follow-up. The Iranian nuclear issue itself is extremely complicated, with many problems that have to be addressed in the Plan of Action's implementation, and no precedent to draw on. It should be anticipated that in a decade-long period of implementation, various questions, difficulties and challenges will arise. It is China's hope that all the parties will continue to try to meet one another halfway while understanding and accommodating one another. It is essential to stick to the principles of synchronization and reciprocity in accommodating everyone's concerns. The pursuit of one goal should not come at the expense of another, lest balance and equity be lost. China is pleased with the sound cooperative momentum being maintained between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran. We encourage Iran to further strengthen its communication and cooperation with the Agency and, in line with the road map signed with the IAEA, solve all the outstanding issues as soon as possible.

China has continued to play a constructive mediating role during the entire negotiation process. In the future, China will also communicate closely with all the other parties, while contributing to promoting the smooth implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and playing a constructive role in securing a final and comprehensive settlement of the Iran nuclear issue.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by thanking the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1367 (2006) and the Panel of Experts for their continued work in supporting the Council's resolutions on Iran. I particularly want to thank Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi for his continued leadership as Chair of the Committee.

Like others, I welcome the successful conclusion to the negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. The agreement on 14 July on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the adoption on 20 July of resolution 2231 (2015) constitute significant achievements for international diplomacy. I pay tribute to the work of the Council and my E3+3 partners in delivering those important agreements. I hope we can draw on that unity in the coming months when tackling other issues that

threaten international peace and security, starting with Syria.

At heart, those important agreements represent a historic shift in our approach to Iran. We now have an opportunity to reset our relationship with that country at a time of great regional instability. I hope all sides can seize it. Our focus must now be on the swift and full implementation of the Plan of Action. We hope that Iran will complete the agreed-on measures promptly, and give the international community confidence that Iran's nuclear programme is, and will remain, exclusively peaceful.

As the briefing reminds us, during the current transitional period, the bulk of sanctions will remain in place and must continue to be enforced in full. That includes all United Nations sanctions and all obligations on United Nations States Members arising from resolutions on the issue. In the implementation period that follows, we must remember that many binding restrictions, such as those on conventional weapons and ballistic missiles, will remain in place during periods outlined in the Plan of Action. The phased lifting of sanctions should act as an incentive for Iran to meet all obligations under the comprehensive agreement. A Council mechanism will be needed to monitor the implementation of the restrictions in resolution 2231 (2015), and we look forward to working together in the Council to set up that mechanism.

We welcome the notifications from Member States about the delivery of equipment for use at the light water reactor at the Bushehr nuclear reactor power plant. We also welcome notifications received by the Committee about the use of designated funds to pay contracts entered into before designations came into force. This report reminds Member States that we must continue to report any suspected violations of Council provisions, in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant resolutions.

Turning to the work of the Committee, I am grateful for the continued crucial role it plays in supporting the enforcement of the relevant Council sanctions measures on Iran. I also welcome the ongoing work of the Panel of Experts and the appointment of seven experts to serve on the Panel. I look forward to working closely with all members of the Council on the next steps on this issue. I am grateful for the assistance provided by the Committee and by the Panel of Experts to Member States and international organizations, and for their participation in international meetings and conferences. But we remain disappointed at Iran's continued failure to respond to past requests for information on various incidents of concern. Once again, we urge Iran to respond to the Committee's requests.

The United Kingdom remains committed to a peaceful and lasting solution to the Iran nuclear issue. As the British Foreign Secretary made clear during his historic visit to Tehran last month, the comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran is in all our interests. For the international community it is the best way of ensuring Iran does not develop a nuclear-weapon capability. For Iran it can reset relationships with the international community and enable it to trade freely with the world to the benefit of all Iranians. And for both Iran and the international community this agreement is a chance to end years of enmity and to begin a new era of cooperation on combating the spread of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, on ensuring regional stability and on issues like counter-narcotics and migration. Therefore, the United Kingdom will continue to make every effort to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to help start this process. We look to all parties involved to do the same.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): I, too, would like to the Spanish Ambassador for his briefing on the quarterly activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

The Vienna agreement of 14 July between Iran and the E3+3, and the adoption a week later of resolution 2231 (2015) by the Council were historic steps in re-establishing confidence with regard to the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. For 12 years, this question has occupied and worried the international community. The alarming expansion of Iran's nuclear programme for over a decade led us to establish a significant sanctions regime, while keeping the door open to dialogue for starting serious negotiations.

We support the Vienna agreement, as it attained all the objectives that my country had set for itself during the negotiations, namely, a 98 per cent reduction in Iranian uranium stocks, a two-thirds reduction in the number of centrifuges, a limit to the rate of uranium enrichment and a ban on enrichment activities in the underground site of Fordow. All of those things have significantly lengthened the time necessary for Iran's swift access to nuclear weapons. By obliging Iran to modify the Arak reactor, we blocked access to a plutonium-based

nuclear bomb. Finally, by guaranteeing International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) oversight not only over Iranian nuclear facilities and over the integrity of the fuel cycle, but also, where appropriate, to non-declared sites, we are ensuring that the agreement will be strictly verified in the field.

This agreement is based on a thorough verification on the ground of the commitments made by Iran. We have also taken requisite steps to restore sanctions should it be necessary if there are significant violations. Everything has been done to deter any violation of the agreement by the Iranian side.

We shall judge based on evidence: the success of the agreement depends in large part on Iran, which will have to implement all measures provided for. In exchange, the nuclear-related sanctions will be progressively eased as Iran concretely honours its commitments and the IAEA is able to verify it.

The Security Council, having endorsed it, is today the guarantor of the implementation of the Vienna agreement. We will take part in this exercise in good faith, of course, but also with necessary vigilance — and for the entire duration of the agreement. We will particularly ensure that the timetable set forth by the Vienna agreement and the resolution will be scrupulously upheld.

In that respect, I think it would probably be useful to recall that just until implementation day — that is, until the IAEA confirms to us that Iran has implemented all the initial measures of the agreement — all existing measures of Security Council resolutions remain fully in force. The Vienna agreement and resolution 2231 (2015) explicitly state this. That means that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and the Panel of Experts supporting it must continue their activities, including as pertains to incidents already reported as well as those that may be reported by Member States.

Furthermore, I hope, as indicated by the Ambassador of Spain, that the Committee, with the Panel's support, can provide Member States with all the necessary support for the implementation of Security Council resolutions on Iran.

The Vienna agreement is the best demonstration of what diplomacy is capable of today. While there was an accumulation of uncertainties, the agreement today provides a lasting foundation for a resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue. It is along those lines that we hope that all the national procedures needed for the full implementation of the agreement will be swiftly concluded.

Mrs. Kawar (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like first to extend my thanks to the Permanent Representative of Spain for his valuable briefing and for his leadership in the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). I would also like to thank the Panel of Experts for their efforts and the preparation of relevant reports.

Jordan welcomed the agreement signed on the Iranian nuclear file and the diplomatic and political efforts deployed by all parties to reach that agreement. Jordan has always supported a diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue, and any steps that could contribute to establishing regional security, peace and stability. In that context, we call upon the Committee to continue to perform its mandated tasks and follow up the application of the relevant resolutions during the transitional period until the agreement is applied and the Security Council receives the International Atomic Energy Agency report indicating that Iran has implemented all measures regarding its nuclear programme, pursuant to resolution 2231 (2015).

We would also like to encourage States that have not submitted reports on steps taken for the application of the relevant Security Council resolutions to do so as soon as possible and to cooperate in a positive manner with the Panel of Experts, as the success of the work of the Committee depends upon the submission of those reports.

In conclusion, we value the role of the Committee in assisting States and international institutions to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Taula (New Zealand): We also thank the Permanent Representative of Spain for his briefing and for his leadership of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). New Zealand welcomes the mandate of the Committee and now more than ever urges the Committee and its Panel of Experts to continue their good work.

New Zealand joins others in acknowledging the critical juncture we are at with regard to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and in addressing the Iranian nuclear issue. During this time it is essential for the credibility of the Council and the Plan of Action that the integrity of the sanctions regime against Iran remain

intact. We acknowledge the fact that the Committee and the Panel of Experts are in an unusual position, but the Council position should be clear. We also urge the Panel of Experts to continue with its programme work, which is based on the premise that they are conducting business as usual until such time as Iranian obligations are met.

We note that, with adoption day approaching, the 1737 Committee, along with a joint commission established under the Plan of Action, will have a significant role to play in authorizing exemptions to current sanctions to facilitate Iran meeting its commitments. However, we also note that only transactions formally exempted through the appropriate process will be considered legitimate.

Member States have a responsibility to adhere to all sanctions regimes, and Council members in particular have a responsibility to demonstrate leadership in that regard. We urge all parties to approach the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and of resolution 1737 (2006) with the same positive intent and good faith that led to the agreement being reached.

New Zealand is acutely aware of the challenges faced by Member States in implementing complex sanctions regimes such as the one designated in resolution 1737 (2006). Council members and Member States will all require guidance to manage expectations and clarify obligations under resolution 2231 (2015) and the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We invite the 1737 Committee to consider how best to provide such guidance.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): I join other Security Council members in expressing appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Spain as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for his briefing on the Committee's work during the reporting period.

The agreement reached on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action last July augurs well for international diplomatic efforts to enhance nuclear security. In the longer term, its implementation could be among the possible catalysts needed for sustained peace, security and stability in the Middle East region. At this juncture, I reaffirm Malaysia's full and continuing support of resolution 2231 (2015). We look forward to the full and speedy implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by all the relevant parties.

Along with establishing a framework for monitoring and verification of Iran's nuclear programme by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Plan of Action sets in motion a change of events and activities that will, over time, provide the necessary assurances concerning the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. In that regard, we look forward to the upcoming commencement of the IAEA's compliance verification activities with a view to declaring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, thereby paving the way for the full lifting of all United Nations sanctions against the country. The prospect of Iran's rejoining the community of Nations that possess nuclear and nuclear-related technology for purely peaceful purposes is something we should welcome and endeavour to achieve without delay, not least with a view to alleviate the situation of ordinary Iranians who have had to bear the brunt and stigma of sanctions that have been imposed on their country.

We regard the role of the 1737 Committee and the work of its Panel of Experts. Malyasia shares the view that both the Committee and the Panel of Experts continue to perform an important role in investigating, monitoring and reporting to the Council on compliance and allegations of possible violations of the United Nations sanctions regime.

During the present interim period before the full application of the provisions of the Plan of Action, we believe that the Committee and the Panel of Experts continue to share a critical bridging function. In addition to its ongoing activities, the Panel of Experts might also consider undertaking a more vigorous outreach in order to explain and clarify provisions of the Plan of Action to all Member States and relevant partners and stakeholders. We commend and support the Panel of Experts for taking initial steps to that end, as indicated in its recently adopted annual programme of work. Mindful of the significant wealth of knowledge and expertise accumulated by the Committee and by the Panel of Experts over the years, we also believe that there is potential and scope for continued cooperation between the Panel of Experts, the IAEA and relevant partners and stakeholders with regard to the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The agreement on the Plan of Action is a significant landmark, as it seeks to address concerns about nuclear proliferation. It also serves to reaffirm the principle of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, which is in line with the regime set up by the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On that note, Malaysia reaffirms the centrality of the NPT regime in stemming the proliferation of nuclear weapons and related technologies. We continue to strongly believe that the pursuit of nuclear non-proliferation must be matched by a similar pursuit of general and complete nuclear disarmament. We note that the efforts towards nuclear disarmament by the nuclear weapons States have stalled somewhat in recent years, and we call upon them to reverse that trend. While achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world may not be possible in our lifetime, it is our collective responsibility to strive towards removing the threat of nuclear holocaust from succeeding generations to the furthest possible extent.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing. We would like to express our appreciation for his diligence and commitment in fulfilling the tasks of the Committee under his responsibility.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela once again expresses its satisfaction over the adoption of the landmark agreement reached between the P5 + 1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 14 July. This achievement is a triumph of diplomacy and dialogue over bellicose pronouncements that promote confrontation and mistrust. This agreement shows that, when there is political will and commitment among parties, solutions can be reached that promote international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In view of recent developments concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Venezuela welcomes the progress shown in implementing the Plan as adopted on 20 July in resolution 2231 (2015). We reiterate our full support for the implementation of this historic effort, which, in the short-term will result in the definitive lifting of the sanctions regime applied to that brotherly country, as well as other illegal, unilateral and coercive measures that were imposed on other States owing to their cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In that regard, we call on all Member States to uphold and comply with the provisions set out in this broad agreement.

We are pleased that dialogue and cooperation have been maintained between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as underscored in its report of 27 August. We encourage the parties to intensify their efforts in order to resolve all outstanding issues between the IAEA and Iran by the end of 2015. We acknowledge the important role played by the Agency in resolving all issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme. We hope that cooperation will continue to be strengthened in order to move ahead with the measures relating to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Action Plan. The implementation of the Plan of Action should ensure the Islamic Republic of Iran its sovereign right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with a view to promote its technological and energy independence.

We note with satisfaction how over the past several months the adoption of the Plan of Action has contributed positively to the start of a new phase of diplomatic relations based on mutual respect and dialogue between Iran and several countries in the international community. The Islamic Republic of Iran shares borders with major countries in Asia and the Middle East, which is why cooperation between Iran and other countries in the region is of extreme importance in facing common threats to peace and stability in the region. Iran's contributions should not be underestimated. Any decision of importance regarding this area should be based on cooperation, so that our fellow country can play proactive role in finding solutions that would contribute to the stability and security of this unstable region, while dealing jointly with threats that stem from terrorism and violent extremism, among other challenges.

Furthermore, the strengthening of peace and stability in the Middle East requires the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, as agreed upon in 1995 at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which also indefinitely extended the Treaty. The nuclear agreement between the P5+1 and Iran is a positive sign that encourages us to redouble our efforts in order to achieve this important goal as soon as possible, in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other categories of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Similarly, this new phase in the relationship between Iran and some States members of the international community paves the way for establishing alliances of cooperation in different areas. The lifting of sanctions against Iran will make it possible to re-establish economic, commercial and financial links with countries that want to do business with this important trade partner, which will lead to the achievement of

greater well-being and progress for the Iranian people and the region.

With regard to the work of the Committee, we emphasize that, in this crucial phase, it is important that the Committee be able to contribute in a constructive way to addressing the new challenges and goals that are emerging in the face of this new dynamic, taking into account the current political situation. We would appreciate it if, in this new phase, the Committee would reorient its tasks mainly towards providing assistance to States and international institutions for the implementation of the relevant measures adopted in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Similarly, it would also be a good idea for the Committee to provide support and advice to Member States that are looking for technical guidance regarding new cooperation initiatives on Iran on issues that fall under the mandate of the Committee.

Mr. Adejola (Nigeria): I thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing and we commend the Panel of Experts for their work.

As this is the first meeting of the Council on the subject after the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), we would like to reiterate our support for the agreement between Iran and the P5+1 on the Iranian nuclear programme. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, endorsed by resolution 2231 (2015), presents a clear road map for the implementation of the agreement. It is our hope that it will lead to an early resolution of all outstanding issues in Iran's nuclear programme.

We support dialogue, diplomacy and the resolution of crises through such agreements. In view of this, we urge the parties to implement the agreement transparently, in good faith and for the progress of the people of Iran. We further welcome the continued cooperation of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) with members. This is vital to upholding and ensuring the integrity of the sanctions regime.

Finally, let me commend the Chair of the Committee for his astute leadership and assure him of our continued support.

Mrs. Jakubonė (Lithuania): Allow me to thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi of Spain for his report to the Council and to commend him for a successful stewardship of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

On 20 July, the Security Council unanimously adopted the landmark resolution 2231 (2015) endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed by the E3+3 and Iran. We strongly believe that a deal, which is based on Iran's implementation of changes to its nuclear programme in return for the phased lifting of sanctions, has offered a real, durable and verifiable path to resolving the decade-long dispute.

At this crucial moment, Lithuania reiterates that all Security Council sanctions remain in effect and must be robustly implemented by all Member States and, in particular, by the members of the Council. In this connection, we welcome the Committee's readiness to give guidance to Member States and international organizations on the implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions.

We also reiterate our concern that Iran, while taking steps in complying with the JCPOA, continues to disregard certain provisions of the Security Council resolutions, in particular those related to its ballistic missile programme and transfers of conventional weapons and related materiel. Iran should without delay extend cooperation with the 1737 Committee, inter alia, by providing information requested by the Panel of Experts in conduct of its investigations.

Lithuania welcomes the reappointment of the experts to the Panel and strongly supports their ambitious programme of work submitted to the Committee on 28 August. We encourage the Panel to continue its investigations, particularly on new reported episodes of non-compliance.

Iran's continuous and full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a vital element in restoring much needed trust between Iran and the international community. We note the report by which the IAEA confirmed that Iran has taken steps of nuclear-related actions in accordance with resolution 2231 (2015). We call on Iran to provide the international community with verifiable guarantees of the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

In conclusion, Lithuania believes that, if implemented fully and in good faith, the JCPOA will become a fundamental element in building trust between Iran and the international community. It will open the door to a steady improvement of relations and greatly contribute, in a positive manner, to regional and international peace and stability.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): We thank the Permanent Representative of Spain, Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, for the presentation of the revised 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We commend and support the work of the Committee and the Panel of Experts on an issue to which the international community attributes fundamental importance.

We are pleased about the adoption by the Security Council, on 20 July, of resolution 2231 (2015) endorsing the recently concluded Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was the first success of diplomacy in the Middle East region in decades and is a landmark towards a comprehensive and long-lasting solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Now, during the transitional period, we urge the Government of Iran to undertake specific actions, stipulated in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and comply with its provisions in order to expedite the easing of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

Finally, we remain committed to the measures imposed by the relevant Security Council resolutions on these issues towards implementation, taking into account the exemptions provided for in resolution 2231 (2015).

Mr. Olguín Cigarroa (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi for presenting the quarterly report of the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for his excellent guidance of its work.

Chile welcomes the agreement reached on 14 July between Iran and the E3+3 group. Its implementation will contribute to resolving the discrepancies with regard to the scope and the future of Iran's nuclear programme. We believe that the implementation and verification of the agreement will preserve the integrity of the multilateral non-proliferation regime and will strengthen regional and global security.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the implementation of its three pillars — disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy — should be balanced. Therefore, in this discussion, we should not forget the need to make progress on the obligations under article VI of the Treaty pertaining to nuclear disarmament.

The establishment of internationally recognized and verifiable nuclear weapon-free zones is a political and legal commitment that brings us closer to the universal ideal of a society free of nuclear weapons. To that end, we reiterate the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and it is essential for the international community to contribute to it. It is imperative that all actors implement this agreement, as set out in resolution 2231 (2015), which requires specific actions, but also responsibility and moderation by the actors in their statements.

In conclusion, we reiterate that Chile, as a member of the Council and as a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will provide all necessary support for the effective and smooth implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Gombo (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I, too, should like to thank the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, for presenting the quarterly report on the Committee's activities from 23 June to 14 September.

With respect to the settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue, Chad notes the statement of support issued by the European Union Foreign Affairs Council on 20 July for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, adopted in Vienna on 14 July, and the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015). We also note the vote that took place in the United States Senate on 10 September, endorsing the Plan. We take note of the statement made by the President of the United States that the vote represented a victory for diplomacy. Moreover, Chad notes that the Iranian Parliament has established a 15-member committee to review the agreement and take a position on it by the end of the month. Chad encourages all parties to fully implement the Plan once all national procedures have concluded.

We reiterate that, pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Iran has the right, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of article IV of the Treaty, to develop research, production and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The agreement on the Iran nuclear issue demonstrates that, when the international community is determined to resolve a crisis, it can do so. Chad reiterates its appreciation for the diplomatic efforts of Germany, the five permanent members of the Security Council, the High Representative of the European

Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the basis of the lessons learned in this matter, Chad encourages all States, including the permanent members of the Security Council, to urgently resolve the issue of non-proliferation in the rest of the Middle East. In that respect, it would be helpful to request the States of the region that are rushing headlong into a race for weapons of mass destruction or that already possess such weapons, to cease such activities and to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

I turn now to the activities of the 1737 Committee. Chad encourages Committee members to continue to assist States and international organizations in the implementation of measures called for by the Security Council. We welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General on 30 June of seven experts with a mandate through July 2016, pursuant to resolution 2224 (2015). We note the programme of work submitted by the Panel of Experts on 28 August.

In conclusion, in the light of rising instability in the region, which is exacerbated by the terrorist threat, we underline the need for concerted efforts, including on the part of Iran, to settle the various regional crises.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the Russian Federation.

We thank the Permanent Representative of Spain for his report on the work undertaken by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), which he chairs, during the most recent reporting period.

The Russian Federation welcomes the successful conclusion of talks to resolve the situation concerning the Iran nuclear programme. We are pleased by the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and hope that, as set forth in and endorsed in resolution 2231 (2015), it will enter into force in the coming weeks. We believe that the Plan not only allows for a satisfactory resolution of the Iran nuclear issue, in full respect for Iran's right to engage in peaceful nuclear activities, but also serves to strengthen confidence in the Middle East, ensuring the lifting of obstacles to normal regional economic and political cooperation, with the full participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Active preparations are now under way to begin the practical implementation of the JCPOA on a number of different fronts. On 25 August, an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency was held, at which the Agency was mandated to undertake verification activities in the framework of the JCPOA. This important step forward will allow the Agency to reach agreement with Tehran on specific parametres for future verification activities. We believe that there is a need for the Board of Governors to adopt, in due course, a separate resolution to ensure Agency participation in the implementation of the JCPOA on a sound footing and to consolidate the continuity of the process.

We are carefully following the processes of consideration of the agreement by the legislative bodies of the United States and Iran. We hope that this will all lead to a successful and smooth conclusion. With Iran, we too are taking preparatory measures on certain aspects of the JCPOA, which provides for bilateral Russian-Iranian projects, including the establishment of stable isotope production in Fordo and the shipment of low enriched uranium from Iran.

Pursuant to the provisions of the JCPOA, 18 October is the so-called date of adoption, after which Tehran will begin taking practical measures to bring its nuclear programme into conformity with its obligations under the JCPOA. The United States and the European Union members of the P5+1 will begin to prepare the legal framework for the lifting of their unilateral sanctions on Iran. We have no reason to doubt that all sides will honour their obligations in good faith.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7523

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 September 2015

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7523rd (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 16 September 2015, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 16 September 2015, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 7523rd meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

"The President invited Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Ms. Honoré via video-teleconference from Port-au-Prince.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Honoré and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Honoré and representatives of participating contributing countries also paid tribute to Force Commander Lieutenant General Jose Luiz Jaborandy, Jr., of Brazil, in connection with his sudden passing on 30 August 2015."

15-15737 (E) 160915

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United Nations S/PV.7524

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7524th meeting
Wednesday, 16 September 2015, 11 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Mahamat Zene
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/698)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-28185 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/698)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Syria to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/698, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014).

I now give the floor to Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: The recent images of the 3-year-old boy Aylan Kurdi lying lifeless on a beach in Turkey encapsulate the profound and prolonged desperation of the Syrian people, too long exposed to the horrors of a brutal and savage conflict. I recount the words of Abdullah Kurdi, Aylan's father, who said, "I tried to catch my children and wife, but there was no hope. One by one they died." Tragically, far too many Syrian families have spoken similar words over the last five years. It is civilians who continue to bear the brunt of this war.

As the plight of Syrian refugees desperately trying to reach Europe in recent weeks has shown, the effects of the Syria crisis are not just national or regional, but global in nature. The conflict in Syria has propelled one of the largest refugee exodus since the Second World War. These refugees are fleeing for their lives from war and violence, and have a right to seek asylum without any form of discrimination. As an international community, it is our responsibility to support the neighbouring countries that shoulder most of the burden. At the same time, stronger efforts must be made to address the root causes that force people to leave their homes and seek asylum abroad — addressing the flee-or-die response natural to each and everyone of us faced with peril or a challenge to our survival. For Syria, it should be clear to all that this means a political settlement that brings about an end to the crisis.

In the absence of such a political solution, the Security Council adopted resolution 2139 (2014) in February, which demands action by the parties in a number of areas, including an end to attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure and facilitating unhindered humanitarian access. I deeply regret to inform the Council that, some 18 months later, the Council's strong demands continue to go unheeded. By any measure, human suffering in Syria has worsened, not diminished.

Over the past month, violence has continued throughout the country. There has been no reduction in the appalling patterns of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Indiscriminate attacks, including with explosive weapons, continue to cause widespread death and destruction. For example, between 17 and 26 August, Government forces repeatedly attacked residential areas in Douma, in rural Damascus, killing at least 90 civilians and wounding nearly 300 more. Meanwhile, in the last week of August, non-State armed groups launched hundreds of shells on civilian-populated areas of Damascus and rural Damascus, killing at least 20 civilians and injuring many more, while yesterday, shelling by non-State armed groups on civilian populated areas of Aleppo killed at least 33 people, including women and children, and injured over 150 more people.

Allegations of attacks with chemical agents continue to be received. The joint mechanism of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons established by resolution 2235 (2015) is the relevant body to investigate those allegations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure continues to occur with alarming frequency. Attacks by non-State armed groups have resulted in significant disruption to municipal water and electricity networks in Aleppo, Damascus and in Dar'a over the past weeks and months. Most recently, approximately 2 million people went without water in Aleppo city for two

weeks in August. Deliberately depriving families and communities of water and electricity only serves to worsen humanitarian conditions and drive ordinary Syrians into greater despair and desperation.

Hospitals and medical facilities continue to be attacked. In August, Physicians for Human Rights documented 12 attacks on medical facilities, while 15 medical workers were killed. Since the start of 2014, there have been 169 attacks on medical facilities and 252 medical workers have been killed. Attacks on such facilities have had a multiplier effect, not only killing and injuring, but also destroying the health-care system as a whole, leaving many Syrians unable to obtain the most basic levels of care.

Schools, which should be safe places for children to learn and grow in, continue to be attacked. Since the start of 2014, the United Nations has verified at least 84 attacks on or near schools, although the actual number of schools attacked is likely higher. One in four schools cannot be used because it has been damaged or destroyed, or is being used as a shelter for the internally displaced or for military purposes. Deliberate attacks on hospitals and schools are war crimes. All parties will unquestionably be held to account now and however far into the future it takes after investigation and due judicial process.

I have spoken before about the impact of the conflict on Syria's children and young people, but it bears repeating once again. Today, Syria is one of the most dangerous places on Earth to be a child. Over 5.6 million children are in need of immediate assistance. Although the school year commenced this past week, over 2 million children — one out of every three — are not in school in Syria, and an additional 450,000 children are at risk of dropping out. We are extremely concerned about hundreds of thousands of children in areas controlled by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), forced to follow a curriculum designed by the designated terrorist group. According to reports of the Commission of Inquiry and others, children are murdered, tortured and subjected to sexual violence by all parties to the conflict. Millions of children have been traumatized by the horrors they have witnessed. Young people have few prospects. The conflict is not only destroying Syria's present, but it is also destroying its future. One missing cohort of educated young people will soon become two cohorts.

Despite the volatile and insecure environment, the United Nations and non-governmental organization partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance to millions of people in need. In the past month alone, 4.2 million people received food aid, medicines and supplies for 1.1 million treatments were dispatched, and nearly 450,000 received relief items and other support. We should all recognize the commitment and bravery of the thousands of workers who deliver much-needed aid at great personal risk, particularly the Syrian organizations and volunteers who are often the first responders on the front lines.

While we are reaching a significant number of people, we are still unable to deliver sufficient quantities of aid to people in the hardest-to-reach areas. Fighting and insecurity hamper our ability to respond. For example, during August, the World Food Programme was unable to reach over 1 million people in rural Damascus, rural Homs and rural Hama. A further 750,000 people in ISIL-controlled areas cannot be reached with food due to safety concerns.

In addition to insecurity, the parties to the conflict continue to place restrictions that limit or obstruct where, to whom and how often we deliver assistance. Some 422,000 people continue to live under the most intolerable siege conditions, unable to leave their communities, and we are largely unable to get in to deliver much needed humanitarian assistance. Over the past three months, only 9 per cent of people in besieged areas have received much-needed health assistance from the United Nations per month, while no food or other basic relief supplies have entered these areas despite the overwhelming need.

Approval for 46 requests for inter-agency convoys remains pending with the Government of Syria. If approved, the United Nations could reach an additional 1.2 million people in desperate need of assistance. Meanwhile, Government-approved convoys to Nubul, Zahra, Afrin in Aleppo and to Foah and Kefrayah in Idlib have been stalled by the lack of approval by non-State armed groups for safe passage. There can be no justification for deliberately obstructing humanitarian access and depriving civilians of access to services essential to their survival.

On a more positive note, I welcome the recent progress made in August on visas, with the Government of Syria granting of 109 visas for United Nations staff members from 12 different offices. Some 96 per cent of the visa applications submitted in August were approved during the same month. I very much hope that

this trend will continue, not only with visas, but also for other administrative obstacles.

The lack of funding for humanitarian operations continues to be a major challenge. We require some $738 million to fund essential life-saving operations until the end of this calendar year in Syria. I appreciate the generosity of donors in 2015 already, and ask them to consider making additional pledges given the extraordinary level of need we are facing.

We are running out of words to describe the utter disregard for human life and dignity that has become the hallmark of this crisis. Every day that passes, more Syrian children, women and men die. Millions more are forced to live in appalling conditions where there is no safe refuge in their country, where their basic needs for protection are unmet, where their fundamental rights are trampled upon, and where their futures and that of their country appear increasingly bleak.

While the parties to this conflict are responsible for upholding their obligations under international law, the members of the Security Council and other Member States with influence can and must do more to demand that the indiscriminate violence stop, that sieges be lifted, that civilian infrastructure be respected, and that vital humanitarian assistance reach all areas of the country without delay.

But above all else, the Council must focus its efforts on finding a political solution. I call again on members of the Council to set aside their differences and work together to finally bring an end to this nightmare for the Syrian people. As bestowed by the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council has an inescapable responsibility to help the Syrian people realize a future of peace. I very much hope that, for the sake of the people of Syria, a political solution will be found as soon as possible.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Mr. O'Brien for his briefing.

I give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Stephen O'Brien, for his briefing to the Security Council. I should like to share with the Council my views regarding certain significant aspects of that very important briefing.

First, Mr. O'Brien was right to say that the root causes of the Syrian crisis must be addressed. Naturally, they are political and not humanitarian in nature. I will therefore proceed on the basis of that understanding. It is not my intention to criticize the report of the Secretary-General (S/2015/698) or to comment on the Under-Secretary-General's statement; rather, I wish to clarify the overall scenario that underlies the humanitarian situation in my country, Syria.

As members are aware, the Security Council has adopted a series of important resolutions to combat terrorism. To its credit, two days ago the Russian presidency of the Security Council organized an important event on the ocassion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1624 (2005). That resolution was followed by resolutions 1989 (2011) and 2199 (2015). While all of them prohibit inciting, funding or supporting terrorism, above all they make it mandatory on States Members of the United Nations not to adopt terrorism as a policy to pressure the Governments of other States. That is splendid as a pronouncement, but it is not applied at all in practical terms.

There are illegal armed terrorist groups operating in northern Syria, such as Jaish Al-Fatha, which is financed by Turkey and Qatar. This group daily fires thousands of shells against our people in Aleppo, killing hundreds and injuring thousands and preventing normal life. Another so-called army is operating in the south, this one funded by Saudi Arabia and Jordan, the latter being a member of the Council and a brother country of Syria. That army carries out the same dirty terrorist tactics in targeting our people in the south. And then there is another such army in the town of Duma, a suburb of Damascus, to which Mr. O'Brien referred. That group, which calls itself Jaish Al-Islam, is funded by Saudi Arabia. I have thus, in a single minute, referred to three "armies" of terrorists — one working under Turkey's command, another under Jordan's and yet a third under Saudi Arabia and Qatar's command.

Unfortunately, the report of the Secretary-General refers to those terrorist groups as non-State armed groups, not terrorist groups. As the Council is aware, this is a neutral phrase that is completely out of line with Council provisions on combating terrorism. The question is therefore eminently political in nature. That, in turn, has led to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation and led, in part, to the refugee exodus to which Mr. O'Brien referred. That is now the main preoccupation of world public opinion and

of international media. My people's tragedy is a major tragedy. Unfortunately, thus far, here in the Council we have not yet touched upon the real reason for segments of the Syrian people leaving their country by force. Terrorism is the main reason that the masses of Syrians fleeing their country.

Terrorism first, but then the coercive and misnamed so-called "economic sanctions" imposed on the Syrian people. They, too, are a major factor in paralysing economic activity and destroying our infrastructure, including the shuttering of hundreds, if not thousands, of factories, destroying employment opportunities and increasing unemployment.

The third reason for the crisis in my country is the huge wave of terrorists and mercenaries being sent to Syria from all over the world — from 100 States Members of the Organization, including Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Libya, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. This information is from a Council report. Those thousands of terrorists are destroying archeological sites in Syria and Iraq, killing and kidnapping women, smuggling archeological artefacts as well as oil and gas through Turkish brokers to the European Union. That funds terrorism. Syrian antiquities are being sold at auction in London. How did they get there?

The image of the child Aylan Turki has rendered a great service to the Syrian people, as it served to highlight certain aspects not being addressed by the media, politicians or diplomats. Why are children not going to school? Well, the reason is now clear: they do not go because terrorists control a vast region, where schools are located. They prevent chilren from attending, while also developing terrorist curriculums inspired by Saudi and Gulf State curriculums in order to teach our children about beheading and hatred for other religions, as well as hatred of all those with different views.

Did the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) spring from a vacuum? No, there are those who have sponsored, helped, funded and facilitated ISIS and its smuggling of oil, gas and antiquities out of Syria. But some still persist in their circular logic, concerned only about slandering the Syrian Government, its President and its army — to the extent that one representative called for an Arria Formula meeting to talk about two gay people, a Syrian and an Iraqi, as if that were the concern of the Council instead of resolving the Syrian crisis politically in a Syrian-led process without external interference and in accordance with the Council's own resolutions.

Today I sent a series of letters to the President of the Council. The first entails a reply by the Syrian Government to the nineteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), which is before the Council today. I also sent another set of letters on the number of victims in Aleppo and Damascus caused by shelling by what the Secretary-General refers to as non-State armed groups — the terrorist "armies" funded by Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. There have been hundreds of victims in those two cities, and they are mentioned by name.

We have brought all of this to the Council's attention over the past few years. This scenario is still unfolding, although some ignore it and are still referring to these terrorists as non-State armed groups. Why is it only in Syria that they are referred to this way? Why is it only in Syria and Iraq that terrorists are called non-State actors? A terrorist in the United States is called a terrorist. If a terrorist appears in France, Spain, Belgium or Britain, he is called a terrorist. Why is he not called a terrorist in Syria? This is a cover-up. Why are his actions justified in this way? Why are such terrorists called non-State armed groups? Syria's Government is a legitimate Government whose duty is to protect its people, implement its Constitution and combat terrorism, but we cannot do that on our own. We need the Council's support and assistance, and its understanding of the magnitude of the terrorist threat being faced in Syria, Iraq and the region. It is a threat that is beginning to reach the countries of Council members.

I hope sincerely that the Syrian crisis will be addressed without reference to the interventionist political agendas of some Governments, including some members of the Security Council. The agony of the Syrian people has grown far enough. Our misery is not up for sale; we are not a bazaar of immoral business, trafficking in the pain of our people. We do not want our people to leave our country; we want them to come back. The support for terrorism, economic sanctions, and Turkish, Jordanian and Qatari intervention must be stopped. The training of the so-called moderate terrorist opposition must be stopped. At that point the situation will be conducive to a political settlement, and the Syrian Government is open to discussion of it. It is open to coming to an understanding with the

national opposition in Syria, but not with terrorism. The members of the Council themselves refuse to have any dialogue with terrorists.

I repeat, for the last time, that our pain and agony and sorrow are vast, thanks to foreign intervention in our internal affairs and to misleading political interpretations of the situation in Syria. When there is a cover-up of actions by ISIS, the Al-Nusra Front, Jaish Al-Fatha, Jaish Al-Islam and all those terrorist gangs, that implies that their actions are legitimate and that there are countries protecting them, and as a result they persist with their terrorism. Meanwhile, what we need is concrete implementation of President Putin's initiative for establishing a genuinely effective international coalition against terrorism.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now give the floor to the Council member who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Jordan will respond in writing to the accusations made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic this morning.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7525

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7525th meeting
Thursday, 17 September 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Mahamat Zene
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2015/620)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-28344 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2015/620)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/711, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Malaysia, the United Kingdon of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/620, which contains the thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2239 (2015).

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.